Bengaluru Sunday, August 31, 2025 Pages 22 Vol 78 No 241 ₹8

DH on Sunday

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DECCAN HERALD
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Duo assures India of World Championships medal

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Dining the Danish way

Blending tradition with innovation and ethics, New Nordic cuisine is reshaping global gastronomy

Quickly

After 7 years, Modi lands in China

After a gap of over seven years, Prime Minister Narendra Modi landed in China on Saturday evening on a keenly watched visit that assumed greater significance in view of a sudden downturn in India-US ties triggered by Washington's policies on trade and tariff.
Details on Page 3

Registration fee hiked to 2%

Citizens will have to pay more during property transactions as the registration fee has been hiked from 1% to 2%, a move estimated to generate an additional Rs 2,500 crore for the cash-crunched government.

The hike will come into effect from August 31, the government announced on Saturday.
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Report flags deficiencies in BBMP works

The judicial commission headed by Justice H N Nagamohan Das which submitted a report to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on alleged irregularities in 761 works executed under the BBMP, recommended legal action against erring officials. Several deficiencies were found during scrutiny of 528 randomly selected projects and 233 additional works.
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'We fired just 50 weapons to subdue Pak'

The Indian Air Force fired less than 50 weapons on carefully chosen Pakistani targets to compel Islamabad to request for a ceasefire, a top IAF official said on Saturday, disclosing more details on Operation Sindoor. "We hit them so hard, practically by mid-day they were ready to talk to us," IAF Vice Chief Air Marshal Narmdeshwar Tiwari said on Saturday.
Details on Page 3

Dravid steps down as RR head coach

Rajasthan Royals on Saturday announced that head coach Rahul Dravid will step down ahead of the 2026 IPL season, after turning down a "broader position" within the franchise. Dravid was appointed as the head coach of the Royals ahead of the IPL 2025 season.
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Coexistence, not panic: India's stray dog policy gaps

Rising dog bites and rabies deaths expose gaps in data, healthcare and sterilisation, showing how policy struggles to balance safety with compassion

KUSHAGRA BHARDWAJ
BENGALURU, DHNS

India has an estimated 6 crore free-ranging dogs. In pic, stray dogs huddle at a dog shelter in Noida. PTI

On a quiet Sunday morning in April, four-year-old Khadeera Banu was playing inside her house in Davangere when a stray dog wandered in. Within moments, the child was dragged outside and mauled. She suffered several critical injuries on her face and body. Mohammed Sajid Ali, her father, recalls how quickly the attack played out.

Sajid told *DH* that Khadeera was initially treated at the government hospital and then at a private hospital in Davangere.

"Although she recovered initially, she suddenly developed a cold and fever. We took her to our family doctor, but the problem did not subside. The blood test, too, came back normal," said Sajid, a street vendor.

After three to four days, Khadeera developed a fever and started vomiting. After a few tests, she was diagnosed with rabies and was admitted to the Indira Gandhi Hospital in Bengaluru.

After battling for life for four months, Khadeera succumbed to her injuries on August 17. Doctors treating her said she died of 'dumb rabies' — a condition which renders the patient unresponsive.

Sajid said he spent around Rs 15 lakh on her treatment, but to no avail. "Within a month, we found out that Khadeera was infected with rabies. She got her first dose of vaccination on the day of the dog bite and was later given three doses within a month," he adds.

INSIGHT

"After the incident, the city corporation took away some 10 street dogs. But the area still has many of them. We are concerned about the safety of the other children," Sajid said.

In another incident at Bengaluru's Kodigehalli, 68-year-old Seetappa was found lying in a pool of blood. A police report mentions that he was mauled to death by a pack of dogs while on his morning walk in late July.

Around 2,000 km away, in Uttar Pradesh's Bulandshahr, a state-level Kabaddi player, Brijesh Solanki (22), died of rabies in June. A video of him screaming and gasping for breath rattled the public. It was later revealed that Brijesh was bitten by a stray puppy that he tried to rescue two months back. He brushed off the issue and did not take the anti-rabies vaccines.

These cases, like many others reported across the country, underscore the persistent and complex challenge posed by stray dogs.

The human-stray dog conflict was thrust into the national spotlight after the Supreme Court took suo motu cognisance of the issue. The two-judge bench directed that all stray dogs in the Delhi-NCR region be moved to shelters with no scope for release.The order led to outrage and massive protests from animal rights activists across the country. Several lawyers highlighted to the Chief Justice of India, B R Gavai, that the ruling conflicted with previous verdicts and laws.

Consequently, a three-judge bench significantly modified the order within 11 days. The order included a stay on the no-release provision. The bench also ruled that aggressive dogs may not be released and recommended that feeding areas be demarcated across the country.The court's directions, however, address only part of the challenge. The scale of the stray dog population itself remains daunting. According to a global report on pet homelessness (2022-23), India is home to 6 crore free-roaming dogs.

The report highlights that around 71% of dogs in India are on the streets. However, the 2019 Livestock Census conducted by the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying, under the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying, pegged the number at only 1.5 crore. Experts say that the burgeoning stray dog population has become a public health and civic safety crisis, largely driven by human action.

According to the Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme, launched by the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, India saw 37 lakh dog bite cases in 2024. This marks a 69% increase in such cases from 2022 and a 22% jump from 2023.

▸ Stray dog crisis, Page 2

The ghostly challenges of AI in the newsroom

Journalists are waking up to a phantom in their midst and wondering if it is a friend or foe

S R RAMAKRISHNA

AI IMAGING / PUSHKAR V

The story of how a contributor fooled tech magazine *Wired*, claiming authorship for a story written by AI, shows how the technology is sneaking past editorial due diligence.

Many are surprised that *Wired*, a highly regarded American magazine with a sophisticated understanding of tech, was duped so easily.

If AI is so good at erasing the line between illusion and reality, how do we protect ourselves from its consequences? A coldly comforting thought, in the light of the many cases coming to light in recent weeks, is that AI is sneaking past editorial barriers not because it is smarter than humans, but because humans are passing off its work as their own.

Wired is not alone. AI-generated content is catching publications of all manner unawares. On July 21, a leading Indian business news publication ran a story about Trump posting a deepfake video about Obama.

The story was true so far, but it then went on to quote US disinformation expert Nina Jankowicz as saying, "This deepfake is political disinformation at its worst. It erodes public trust, damages reputations, and poses serious threats to democratic stability."

The SUNDAY STORY

A day later, she came out to say she had never spoken to the newspaper or said anything of the sort. What happened was that AI, trained on language models, had imagined what she would have said, and convincingly mimicked her tone and tenor.

News organisations are no strangers to cooked-up stories, and sniffing them out is all in a day's work. But AI is a new beast, and organisations have not understood it enough to be able to come up with AI use policies.

On an individual level, reporters, sub-editors and page designers are using generative AI tools such as ChatGPT and Canva to write, edit and create infographics. Meta AI and Grok are other commonly used AI tools in the newsroom.

"AI is not a problem as long as it is doing the grunt work," says an academic-turned-journalist who heads the online operations of a mass circulation publication with its headquarters in Delhi. AI can do the heavy lifting when it comes to summarising documents running into hundreds of pages. Where a human would have taken a day or two to read up and summarise a policy document, AI does it in minutes. Similarly, referencing is a breeze for AI. It can scour a publication's archives, built up over decades, to understand the back story.

With the advent of AI tools, publications will have one of two options — downsize or use their human resources in tandem with AI to exponentially increase their productivity.

In print, desk and design jobs are more vulnerable than reporting ones, and an expert expects a major wave of disruption assailing the industry in about two years.

▸ AI in journalism, P2

DH SPECIAL

When the forest turns into a studio for snake photos

PAVAN KUMAR H
HUBBALLI, DHNS

A man photographs the Malabar pit viper.

This monsoon, illegal herping tourism has proliferated into many parts of the Western Ghats. Herping involves observing and documenting amphibians and reptiles in their natural habitats.

Of late, unauthorised snake handlers are escorting adventure seekers and wildlife photographers deep into the forests to capture images of specific snake species. This is despite the fact that venturing into protected areas without sanction from the Forest Department and handling scheduled species constitute serious, punishable offences.

Recently, the Forest Mobile Squad of Kodagu arrested two persons from Maharashtra for illegally capturing a king cobra, a Schedule-I species, in Kodagu and attempting to traffic it to Maharashtra. The animal was reportedly being trafficked for stage photography.

"There is a growing craze among wildlife photographers to capture rare species of animals. Herp walks, initially meant for research, have now turned into businesses that exploit this craze," says a Mysuru-based herpetologist.

The trekking expeditions are largely organised during the monsoon, as the chances of sighting Malabar pit vipers, hump-nosed pit vipers, bamboo pit vipers, endemic frogs, collectively known as the "gems of the Western Ghats", are higher.

The racket persists in Agumbe, Thirthahalli, Chikkamagaluru, Kodagu, Ankola, Sirsi, Sagar, Yellapur, and other locations nearby.

For snake sighting, these self-proclaimed snake experts charge anywhere between Rs 500 (for a short herp walk) and Rs 28,000 per person (for a two-day adventure including accommodation and food).

Sujay (name changed), a Hubballi-based wildlife photographer who participated in one such herp walk near Agumbe, says it was a thrilling experience to walk inside the thick jungle at night.

He says that the organiser handled a pit viper, placing it on a rock and a tree branch for better photographs before placing it back.

Multiple wildlife photographers who have attended such "camps" confirmed to *DH* that, for better pictures, the organisers handle snakes and reposition them on more photogenic perches.

"Herp walks are a matter of concern as they facilitate large numbers of people venturing into protected and ecologically sensitive areas," says an expert. Experts warn that handling snakes can harm their habitat and disrupt their hunting patterns. They also note that it could pose serious risks to humans.

Senior forest officials claim they are unaware of the operation of such tour guides. P C Ray, the principal chief conservator of forests (wildlife), and additional principal chief conservator of forests (wildlife), Manoj Kumar Tripathi, say they had no knowledge of such camps being conducted in the state. "We will take action if we are informed that such illegal activities are being organised," says Ray.

Timely sterilisation necessary

Stray dog crisis, from Page 1

While not all bites are from stray dogs, with their high overall population, strays contribute generously to the number.

Maharashtra reported the highest number of dog bite cases at 4.9 lakh, followed closely by Tamil Nadu with 4.8 lakh. Karnataka recorded 3.6 lakh cases last year.

Meanwhile, Delhi saw a steep rise of 277% in dog bite cases between 2022 (6,691) and 2024 (25,210). Kerala also witnessed a similar jump from 4,000 cases in 2022 to over 1 lakh cases in 2024.

Several animal rights activists argue that the number of bite cases are inflated. They say that primary healthcare centres often count the number of vials of anti-rabies shots instead of the actual bites, highlighting inaccuracies.

"A lot of people working for animal welfare take precautionary vaccines regularly. Often these numbers are added as dog bites. Multiple shots are administered for a single bite, which are sometimes erroneously counted as multiple bites. Also, since the vaccine is administered for other bites, like cats and not dogs alone, the numbers are further inflated," Chennai-based Arun Prasanna, founder of People for Cattle in India, told *DH*, adding that the numbers also do not differentiate between pet and stray dog bites.

Rabies

One of the biggest challenges that the increase in stray dog population poses is the spread of rabies — a zoonotic disease found to affect humans. The disease is transmitted through the saliva of a rabid animal and is 100% fatal when timely intervention fails. According to a written response shared by the Union government in the Lok Sabha in April, India reported 54 human rabies deaths last year.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) identifies dogs as the source of the vast majority of human rabid deaths, contributing up to 99% of all rabies transmissions.

According to a research paper published by the Delhi-based National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC), annually, approximately 59,000 human deaths and a loss of 3.7 million DALYs (disability-adjusted life years) are associated with dog-mediated rabies globally, with Asia and Africa bearing the highest burden.

While India accounts for 36% of the global deaths due to rabies, the burden in Asia stands at 60%. NCDC research pegs the economic loss due to this at $8.6 billion in India. Rabies has been reported in all states and union territories of India, except for the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

WHO asserts that about 30% to 60% of reported rabies cases and deaths in India occur in children under the age of 15 years, as bites that occur in children often go unrecognised and unreported. While pronouncing its earlier order on August 11, the Supreme Court also specifically noted that, "Infants and young children should not fall prey to rabies."

Coexistence

While any discussion on the stray dog issue usually turns into a heated debate with emotive arguments from both sides, it is pivotal to note that the right policy can allow the coexistence of humans and dogs.

India's policies to manage the growing population of stray dogs have evolved from the colonial-era culling practices to more humane ways of population control via neutering and spaying. The Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act (1960) criminalised cruelty against animals and established the Animal Welfare Board of India.

In 2001, the Animal Birth Control (Dog) (ABC) Rules were enacted, introducing Catch–Neuter–Vaccinate–Release (CNVR) as the mandated framework, prohibiting the killing or relocation of healthy stray dogs. These rules were further strengthened by the ABC Rules, 2023, which require municipalities to implement large-scale sterilisation and anti-rabies vaccination programmes.

While Indian policy is globally accepted as among the most effective and humane ways of dealing with community dogs, gaps have led to the compounding of human-dog conflicts.

The challenge begins with the very first step, counting stray dogs. The 2019 Livestock Census, the most recent available, contains glaring inconsistencies. For instance, it records that Manipur has no stray dogs at all. However, Union government data shows that the eastern state has reported 22,279 dog bite cases from 2018 to 2023. Unless the population of free-roaming dogs and the burden of bites is known, no policy can be implemented effectively on the ground.

The ABCs of animal control

Under the ABC Programme, the Union government has directed that states cover 70% free-roaming dogs to control the spread of rabies cases and manage the stray dog population.

Researchers and activists have highlighted that for ABC programmes to be successful, rigorous and consistent implementation is required. However, many local bodies do complaint-based sterilisation instead of implementing area-based measures.

"Municipal bodies tend to do sterilisation based on complaints. This makes the exercise futile. Until 70% of the dogs are sterilised, their population will continue to grow. The exercise has to be done consistently in a scientific manner. Even a single gap means the deed has been undone," Visakhapatnam-based Pradeep Kumar, founder of Visakha Society for Protection and Care of Animals, said.

The ABC 2023 module also notes that, "While carrying out the ABC programme, sterilisations must be carried out in a well-planned, area-wise, systematic manner. Evidence suggests that ABC programmes will be most effective if undertaken area by area rather than spreading the same efforts thinly over all areas."

The module also bats for a female-centred approach, advising that municipal bodies maintain a 70% female to 30% male dog ratio while sterilising. However, local bodies tend to flout this norm with a major focus on males.

"Male dog sterilisation operation takes hardly 10 minutes. However, for females, the process takes 25 to 40 minutes and is more costly. Also, they need one more day of rest than their male counterparts. While female dog sterilisation has proven to be more effective, there is a mismatched focus on male dogs," Pradeep, who has been working for the dogs since 1998, explained.

Some municipalities have been trying innovative ways to streamline the process and make it more effective. For instance, the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) plans to install a microchip in all stray dogs. While activists have termed the move a violation of the ABC rules and filed a plea in the high court against it, BBMP believes the move will create a database of dogs which will facilitate the ABC process.

"Currently, we use a phone application to maintain the record of a dog. While picking up a dog, we take its picture, record its GPS data, and post-surgery, release it in the same area. However, with the microchips installed, we can create a larger database with records of each dog. The database will not only help us be more effective, but it can also be shared with the citizens and will totally resolve the relocation problem," Vikas Suralkar Kishor, special commissioner of health and animal husbandry, BBMP, told *DH*.

Metropolitan cities tend to witness more efforts to control free-roaming dog populations. Activists believe that in non-urban spaces, the constraints are even higher.

"While Bengaluru is one of the districts where the municipal body is relatively effectively conducting the ABC programme, there are 30 more districts in the state. Work has to be done at the grassroots level. Several districts do not even have ABC centres. Administrative boundaries do not deter animals," said Priya Chetty-Rajagopal, who works to promote human-animal coexistence.

Garbage dumping grounds serve as a food source for dogs — which are territorial animals — and influence their levels of aggression and distribution across an area. The Animal Birth Control, 2023 module also links accumulated waste to increased survival rate for free-roaming dogs.

"Unlicensed meat shops often throw away their waste on the road. This becomes a feast for stray dogs," Arun said.

Rabies free by 2030

India has set an ambitious target of becoming rabies-free by 2030. Achieving this will require coordinated efforts from both the administration and citizens. A multi-pronged strategy is essential, involving rigorous implementation of the ABC programmes, collection of robust real-time data to guide policy, and effective urban waste management.

"ABC operations have to be ramped up not just in urban centres but beyond that to be able to achieve the 2030 goal. Citizens also need to come forward to adopt these stray dogs to reduce the burden on the roads," Shrikrishna Isloor, professor and head, Department of Veterinary Biology, Veterinary College, Bengaluru, said. She added that animal lovers and feeders have to be taken into confidence to make the efforts a success.

Similar words were echoed by Priya, who said, "If you are feeding the stray dogs but are not concerned about an increase in litters of puppies or their ears not being notched, then you are part of the problem."

The right ears of free-roaming dogs are notched after sterilisation and anti-rabies vaccination as an identification mark.

For safer, kinder streets

- Independent surveys estimate that around **6.05 crore** dogs in India are homeless
- While **0.8 crore** are in dog shelters, **5.25 crore** are on the streets
- Local bodies, along with animal welfare organisations, handle stray dog issues
- Poor waste management, inadequate sterilisation, absence of designated feeding facilities, shortage of dog shelters, abandonment of pets are key factors for the rising population of stray dogs

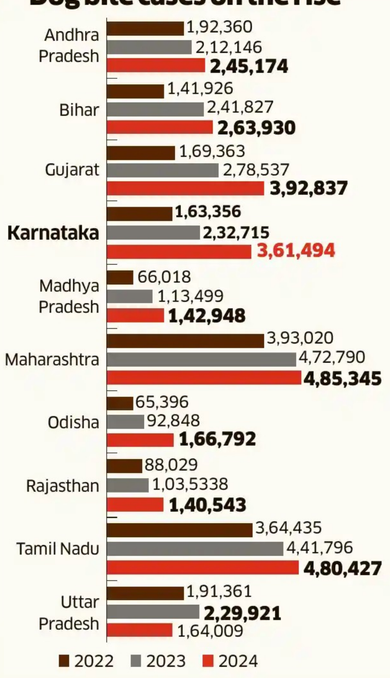
Rabies deaths

- As per WHO, **36%** of the world's rabies deaths occur in India.
- **30%** to **60%** of rabies cases and deaths in India occur in children under the **age of 15**
- **Maharashtra** has recorded the highest number of rabies deaths **(35 cases)** from **2022-2024**
- **Karnataka** stands second with **12 cases** between **2022** and **2024. Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu** and **Uttar Pradesh** have recorded **nine cases** each in these years

Human rabies deaths in India

2022	2023	2024	2025 (Jan)
21	50	54	01

Dog bite cases on the rise



Procurement of anti-rabies vaccine

Year	No of doses (In lakhs)	Funds approved (in Rs lakh)	Centre share approved (In lakhs)
2020-21	25.6	275.3	213.4
2021-22	41.8	281.6	244.5
2022-23	18.4	475	338.1
2023-24	64.5	1,080.6	716.9
2024-25	80.2	1,423.4	956.9
Total	**230.5**	**3,535.9**	**2,469.8**

*Funds approved for procuring anti-rabies vaccine for animals, including stray dogs, are under the Assistance to States for Control of Animal Disease

Pet abandonment and rehoming

- In **2022-23**, only **6%** of **dog owners** in India got their pets from a dog shelter
- A **2021** study shows that **50%** of current and previous pet owners admitted that they had **abandoned** their pet in the past. These pets mostly end up on streets.

Sterilisation staggers

- For effective dog management, local bodies follow the **Capture-Neuter-Vaccinate-Release** approach under Animal Birth Control Rules (ABC), 2023
- Between **2019** and **2023**, the neutering percentage increased by **20%** in **Bengaluru**, resulting in a reduction in the street dog population by **10%**
- Between **2014** and **2024,** the sterilisation rate decreased in **Mumbai** from **74.8%** to **62.9%**
- In **Chennai**, only **27%** of stray dogs have undergone sterilisation in **2024**
- There is no formal assessment of the **ABC** programme's effectiveness. This has posed implementation challenges across the country.

Source: IDSP/IHIP, PIB, National Centre for Disease Control, Directorate General of Health Services, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, State of Pet homelessness project reports, WHO, Study on Stray dog menace: Implications and management)

Compiled by: **DIVYASHRI MUDAKAVI**
DH Graphics: **GURU PRASATH R**

Free-ranging dogs in protected areas

PAVAN KUMAR H
HUBBALLI, DHNS

Free-ranging domestic dogs are the third most damaging invasive mammalian predators globally, after domestic cats and rodents, as per the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, a peer-reviewed journal of the National Academy of Sciences.

Scientists argue that stray dogs have little ecological significance in terrestrial ecosystems, and in many instances, can have a negative impact on a wide range of wildlife habitats, including protected sanctuaries and national parks. Given that dogs are hardy, adaptable, and highly flexible with their diet, they can survive on almost anything.

Abi T Vanak, senior fellow at the Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment, whose team has studied stray dogs extensively, found that around 80 wild species in India suffer frequent attacks by domestic or feral dogs, nearly half of which are threatened as per the IUCN Red List.

"The high density of free-ranging dogs is a threat. A pack of stray dogs can often hunt wild animals such as ungulates, small mammals and nesting birds. In many habitats, due to direct predation, they have emerged as top predators displaying their natural carnivorous nature," he says.

According to the report *Status of Tigers Co-predators and Prey in India*, feral dogs were detected in camera traps in most of India's 50 tiger reserves. The report says that these stray dogs are not just threats to hoofed mammals, which they hunt, but also to carnivores—since they carry infectious diseases like rabies, parvovirus, and canine distemper.

In fact, scientists believe that the deaths of nearly 34 lions in Gujarat's Gir National Park in 2018 was caused by canine distemper.

Scientists also regularly report the hybridisation of dogs with wolves and jackals. "This can dilute the natural adaptations that wolves have, potentially threatening the endangered species," says Vanak.

He calls for government action to control domestic dog and wild species interaction. He stresses the need for these measures, especially in rural areas, by taking local people into confidence.

"India lacks a strict pet-ownership policy. Domesticated dogs, especially in rural areas, do not depend only on people for food but also hunt in hinterlands, a natural habitat of several grassland species. A policy must ensure pet dogs stay within human localities. Also, we need to empower forest officials to free protected areas from feral dogs," he says.

Have your say

To express your opinion, e-mail us at: insight@deccanherald.co.in

Faulty, inconsistent data sets

The Union government conducts a livestock census every five years. Conducted for the first time in 1919-20, the most recent report available is from the 20th livestock census 2019.

The census shows that West Bengal has around 11 lakh dogs, and it recorded over 4 lakh dog bites, which means there is a probability of around 0.36 of being bitten by a dog if you are in the state. However, a couple of thousand km away in the state of Tamil Nadu, the probability increases to around 2, with around 8 lakh bites, with a dog population of only 4 lakh.

The only probable explanation for the anomaly can be either that the Tamil Nadu dogs are too aggressive or that there is an underreporting in either of the states.

However, the former reasoning does not hold ground because other states like Punjab and Kerala also show probabilities similar to West Bengal. While Punjab shows a probability of 0.34, it comes out to be 0.28 for Kerala, signifying erroneous data for Tamil Nadu.

The two data sets are riddled with such inconsistencies. For an effective implementation of the ABC drive, it is pivotal to gauge the population of free-roaming dogs and the burden of bites.

AI in journalism, from Page 1

Where is AI sourcing the information from, and how authentic is it?

AI-enabled content management systems are a godsend for reporters adept at news-gathering but limited in their writing skills. "All they need to do is type a few keywords, and the system writes the story," the web operations head says.

A reporter in Rajasthan who used to file one story a day now files four. The desk then takes over, and conventional due diligence kicks in.

A question the expert is frequently asked is whether AI will take away journalism jobs. "No, you will not be replaced by AI," he says. "You will be replaced by someone who knows AI better than you do."

Editors' concerns

Features sections in publications such as *DH* are flooded with pitches and article submissions, and in recent months, editors have had to exercise extra caution, copy-pasting paragraphs into AI content-detection software to see if they are indeed written by the contributors claiming authorship.

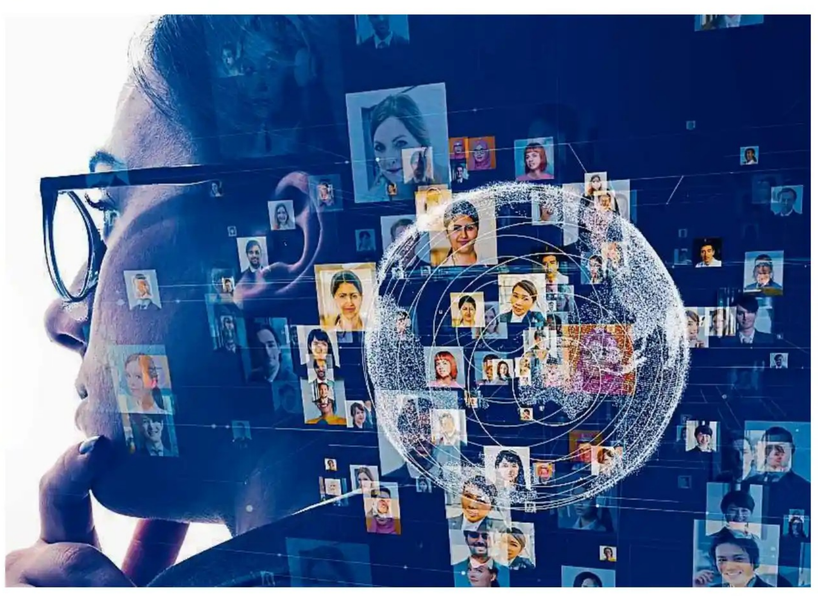
Tools such as Quillbot and ZeroGPT help detect AI-generated submissions, but again, as with all things AI, editors must keep an eye out for dubious calls the tools may take. *Wired* says the discredited pitches were cleared by AI content-detection tools.

Problems abound when stories are aggregations of stories already published online. Where is AI sourcing the information from, and how authentic is it? What are the risks of plagiarism, and how do you protect your publication from reputational loss and legal action?

Vendors of content management systems are pushing AI tools with the sales pitch that they can speed up the news flow, but few are in a position to indemnify publications against legal liability. Also, the current models create text and images with a Western audience in mind, and call for repeat prompts to Indianise them.

The *Wired* story was about an abandoned mining town called Gravemont in Colorado, being used secretly to bury human remains. It was a startling, scandalously good story that no magazine would refuse, but the only problem was that everything, from the pitch to the execution, was the work of AI, and not a human.

The editors reportedly became suspicious only when the journalist demanded payment through Paypal, and refused other channels. *Wired* and other publications have since retracted other articles with the writer's byline.



The term used for AI-generated narratives with no basis in reality is 'hallucination'. AI hallucinations can be entertaining and can perhaps inspire professionals working in domains such as cinema, where fantasy narratives are legitimate. But newspapers risk serious legal liability when they accept AI-generated content without human supervision.

"Fabulists and plagiarists are as old as the media itself. But AI presents a new challenge. It lets anyone craft a perfect pitch with a simple prompt and play-act the role of journalist convincingly enough to fool, well, us. We acted quickly once we discovered the ruse, and we have taken steps to ensure this does not happen again. In this new era, every newsroom should be prepared to do the same," *Wired* said.

Closer home

DH gives out a written test to entry-level journalism aspirants. In the past year, many candidates have submitted test papers perfect in grammar and punctuation. It did not take long for it to dawn on senior editors that the applicants were taking help from ChatGPT.

A giveaway is the word 'furthermore', a ChatGPT favourite. For transitions, Indians are more likely to use words like 'moreover' and 'however.' And since AI models borrow generously from Wikipedia, questions about, say, Siddaramaiah are answered with lines like 'He is the chief minister of the southern Indian state of Karnataka.' Sure, who among our readers ever knew Karnataka was in southern India!

Younger journalists are adapting to AI quickly, and where they need help is in understanding the significance of a story for their particular readership. More seasoned journalists are able to understand the urgency, shelf life, relevance, and risks of a breaking story.

The diversity in newsrooms is not going to take a hit even when AI makes a more formal entry into the newsroom, says an expert. Encouragement for journalists sometimes comes from unexpected quarters: It appears Google search gives a higher ranking to human-generated content.

On professional forums, two extreme theoretical positions are taken. The first is that all you need to run a news organisation is a CEO and a staffer who knows their way around AI.

The second is that AI will never replace journalists. But it will not be long before we wake up to the phantom in the newsroom, learn about its strengths and treacheries, and explore the possibilities of co-existence. And furthermore...

Focus on trade, ties as Modi set to meet Xi today

PM lands in China amid tariff row with US; his first visit since 2018

ANIRBAN BHAUMIK
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Prime Minister Narendra Modi being welcomed with a performance by artistes upon his arrival at the airport, in Tianjin, China. PTI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi flew to Tianjin on Saturday, a day before his proposed meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping—an engagement, which would determine if New Delhi and Beijing could set aside their strategic rivalry and reset bilateral ties in the wake of US President Donald Trump's tariff tirade.

Modi is visiting Tianjin in northern China to attend the summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation. He is scheduled to have a bilateral meeting with Xi on Sunday, a few hours before the Chinese President is likely to host an official reception for the SCO leaders.

"Landed in Tianjin, China. Looking forward to deliberations at the SCO summit and meeting various world leaders," Modi posted on X as he landed in Tianjin. The PM last visited China in June 2018, when Xi had hosted the SCO summit in Qingdao.

Modi had confirmed before leaving New Delhi that he looked forward to meeting Xi. He would also have a bilateral meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin.

The PM's proposed meetings with Xi and Putin come even as New Delhi's relations with Washington have come under stress with Trump imposing a 50% tariff on all exports from India to the US for India's energy imports from Russia.

Modi is set to attend the SCO summit – often called a 'counterweight to NATO' – at a time when Trump's tariff tirade against New Delhi cast a shadow of uncertainty over the Quad conclave proposed to be held in India. The Quad is a four-nation coalition comprising India, Japan, Australia and the US, which came together to counter the hegemonic aspirations of China.

Modi and Xi had last met on the sidelines of the BRICS summit at Kazan in Russia on October 23, 2024, just two days after the stand-off between the Indian Army and the Chinese PLA along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) had come to an end with a deal. The four-and-a-half-year-long stand-off had brought the relations between the two Himalayan neighbours to a new low.

The two leaders had agreed last year that stable, predictable and amicable bilateral relations between India and China would have a positive impact on regional and global peace and would also contribute to a multi-polar Asia and a multi-polar world.

Trump not planning to visit India: Report

US President Donald Trump "no longer has plans" to visit India later this year for the Quad Summit, The New York Times claimed on Saturday, as it detailed how relations between the American leader and PM Modi "unraveled" over the last few months.
Details on Page 10

US Appeals court rules tariffs illegal

Most of President Donald Trump's global tariffs have been ruled illegal by a federal appeals court, which found he exceeded his authority by imposing them through an emergency law. However, the judges allowed the levies to remain in place while the case proceeds.
Details on Page 10

Realty growth spurs forgery case probes at forensic labs

10% annual rise in document verification requests

DH SPECIAL

SNEHA RAMESH
BENGALURU, DHNS

State-run forensic science laboratories are attending to a large number of document verification requests, especially related to forgery in land deals, and there is a gradual increase in such cases, according to data accessed by *DH*.

There has been at least a 10% year-on-year increase in document verification cases handled by FSLs since 2023. In 2023, they received close to 900 such requests and this increased to 1,034 in 2024. This year, 663 cases have been recorded so far.

While FSL officials said they didn't have the data for the years preceding 2023 owing to huge pendency, sources said the cases have nearly doubled in the last five years.

Back in 2020, FSLs would receive 500 such requests annually and this has now increased to an average of 1,000, the sources said.

The state forensic science laboratory is situated in Bengaluru and there are six regional FSLs based in Belagavi, Davangare, Hubballi, Kalaburagi, Mangaluru and Mysuru.

Owing to an increase in real estate frauds and rampant land grabbing, majority of the cases handled by the FSLs pertain to verification of land documents.

Officials also said more people are approaching the labs due to an increase in awareness.

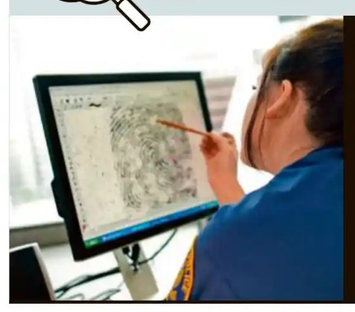
"Majority of the document verification cases we receive are related to land disputes. We get documents such as agreements, sale deeds and general power of attorney (GPA). We also get cases from civil courts," said Divya V Gopinath, director, State Forensic Science Laboratory.

Apart from cases related to forgery of land documents, laboratories examine cases of cheque forgery and discrepancies in account books and documents of societies and associations.

Recently, Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda said his department has asked officials to approach forensic labs if they have a slight doubt about the authenticity of any document.
▸ **FSL, Page 7**

Document verification cases at FSLs

2023	2024	2025 (till July)
914	1,034	663



> Majority of the document verification cases we receive are related to land disputes. We get documents such as agreements, sale deeds and general power of attorney (GPA). We also get cases from civil courts
>
> **DIVYA V GOPINATH**
> director, State FSL

Property deals to cost more, registration fee hiked to 2%

BENGALURU, DHNS

Citizens will have to pay more during property transactions as the registration fee has been hiked from 1% to 2%, a move estimated to generate an additional Rs 2,500 crore for the cash-crunched government.

The hike will come into effect from August 31, the government announced on Saturday.

This hike joins a long list of levies and tariffs revised by the Siddaramaiah administration, which is facing financial constraints due to the implementation of the Congress' flagship 'guarantee' schemes, on which nearly Rs 96,000 crore have been spent so far.

In a statement, Inspector General of Registration and Commissioner of Stamps Mullai Muhilan M P said the registration fee was hiked "to rationalise, strengthen administrative processes and ensure better service delivery".

The government pointed out that it was necessary to "rationalise" as Karnataka had "one of the lowest" stamp duty and registration fee on immovable property transactions when compared with neighbouring states.

Last revised in 2003, registration fee is applicable on a dozen instruments such as sale agreement, lease agreement, conveyance deed, exchange deed, gift deed and trust deed.

At present, citizens pay the government 5% as stamp duty, 1% registration fee and 0.6% in other duties or cess, totalling to 6.6%. Now, with registration fee hiked, the total will be 7.6%.

For a property worth Rs 10 lakh, a citizen had to pay the government Rs 66,000. Now, it will go up by Rs 10,000. Similarly, a property worth Rs 1 crore will now fetch the government Rs 7.6 lakh.

Applicants who have already paid the registration fee will be required to pay the difference amount through the official portal, Muhilan said. Applicants will receive a message with necessary instructions, he added.

To those who have already submitted documents for verification, the registration fee will be recalculated at the revised rate of 2%.

KARNATAKA vs OTHER STATES

States	Stamp Duty	Reg fee	Other duty/ cess	Total
Karnataka	5%	2%	0.6 or 0.65%	7.6% or 7.65%
Tamil Nadu	5%	2%	2%	9%
Kerala	8%	2%	-	10%
Andhra Pradesh	5%	1%	1.50%	7.50%
Telangana (rural)	5.50%	2%	-	7.50%
Telangana (urban)	5.50%	0.50%	1.50%	7.50%

Souce: Department of Stamps & Registration, Karnataka

Panel flags several irregularities in BBMP works

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Justice HN Nagamohan Das Commission, tasked with investigating the alleged discrepancies in the works taken up by the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) between 2019-20 and 2022-23, has found a number of irregularities and recommended action against officials and contractors, sources said.

The commission on Saturday submitted an exhaustive report of 8,900 pages to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah.

Among the works that were executed during the said period, 761 completed works were investigated by the commission. Of these, 528 were selected randomly.

The random works were selected based on an algorithm that was designed by experts from the statistics and economics department.

The sources said the commission has found four major lapses: procedural irregularities, legal violations, substandard works and failure in the accounts section.

The commission conducted the investigation based on first-hand observations after visiting the locations and by studying the documents and accounts related to these works.

According to well-placed sources, works worth around Rs 14,000 crore under the Smart City project were the focus of the probe. The commission has also recommended action against erring officials and contractors.
▸ **Panel report, Page 7**

Justice Nagamohan Das submitting the report to CM Siddaramaiah.

> The key takeaway was that with less than 50 weapons, we achieved conflict termination. It has not happened before.
> **Narmdeshwar Tiwari,** IAF Vice Chief Air Marshal

'Pak sought ceasefire after IAF fired fewer than 50 weapons'

KALYAN RAY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Indian Air Force fired fewer than 50 weapons on carefully chosen Pakistani targets to compel Islamabad to request for a ceasefire, a top IAF official said here on Saturday, disclosing more details on Operation Sindoor.

"We hit them so hard, practically by mid-day they were ready to talk to us. The key takeaway was that with less than 50 weapons, we achieved conflict termination. It has not happened before. We made every weapon count," IAF Vice Chief Air Marshal Narmdeshwar Tiwari said at a defence conclave.

Air Marshal Tiwari said some of the targets hit by the IAF during Operation Sindoor were not attacked even during the 1971 war.

India launched Operation Sindoor on May 7, targeting nine specific terrorist infrastructures in Pakistani territories. When Pakistan retaliated along the western front, India responded with an intense air raid.

"We expected a response and still kept it calibrated. We engaged only military targets. But when the main attack came on the night of May 9-10, that was the time we decided that we needed to go and send the right message. We hit them pan-front," Air Marshal Tiwari said.
▸ **IAF, Page 7**

New shield will be up in decade: Rajnath

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said last week's successful trial of an integrated air defence system by the DRDO was the first step in the Sudarshan Chakra mission. The new shield weapon would provide complete aerial protection to critical locations within the next decade, he said.

11 killed in landslides, cloudburst in J&K

ZULFIKAR MAJID
SRINAGAR, DHNS

Rescue operations in Ramban district, J&K, on Saturday. PTI

At least 11 people, including seven members of a family, were killed in two separate incidents of landslides triggered by heavy rains and a cloudburst in Jammu and Kashmir's Reasi and Ramban districts, officials said on Saturday.

In Reasi district's remote Mahore area, tragedy struck Baddar village overnight when a massive landslide buried the home of Nazir Ahmad (38). Ahmad, his wife, and their five children — aged between five and 13 — were all killed after their house collapsed under tonnes of mud and debris. Rescue teams, battling rain and slush, recovered the bodies on Saturday morning.

In Ramban district's Rajgrah village, a cloudburst unleashed flash floods and triggered a landslide that swept away five people. The sudden deluge also damaged several houses and struck a local school, though no children were inside at the time. The bodies of four victims were found, while searches continue for a missing person who is feared dead.

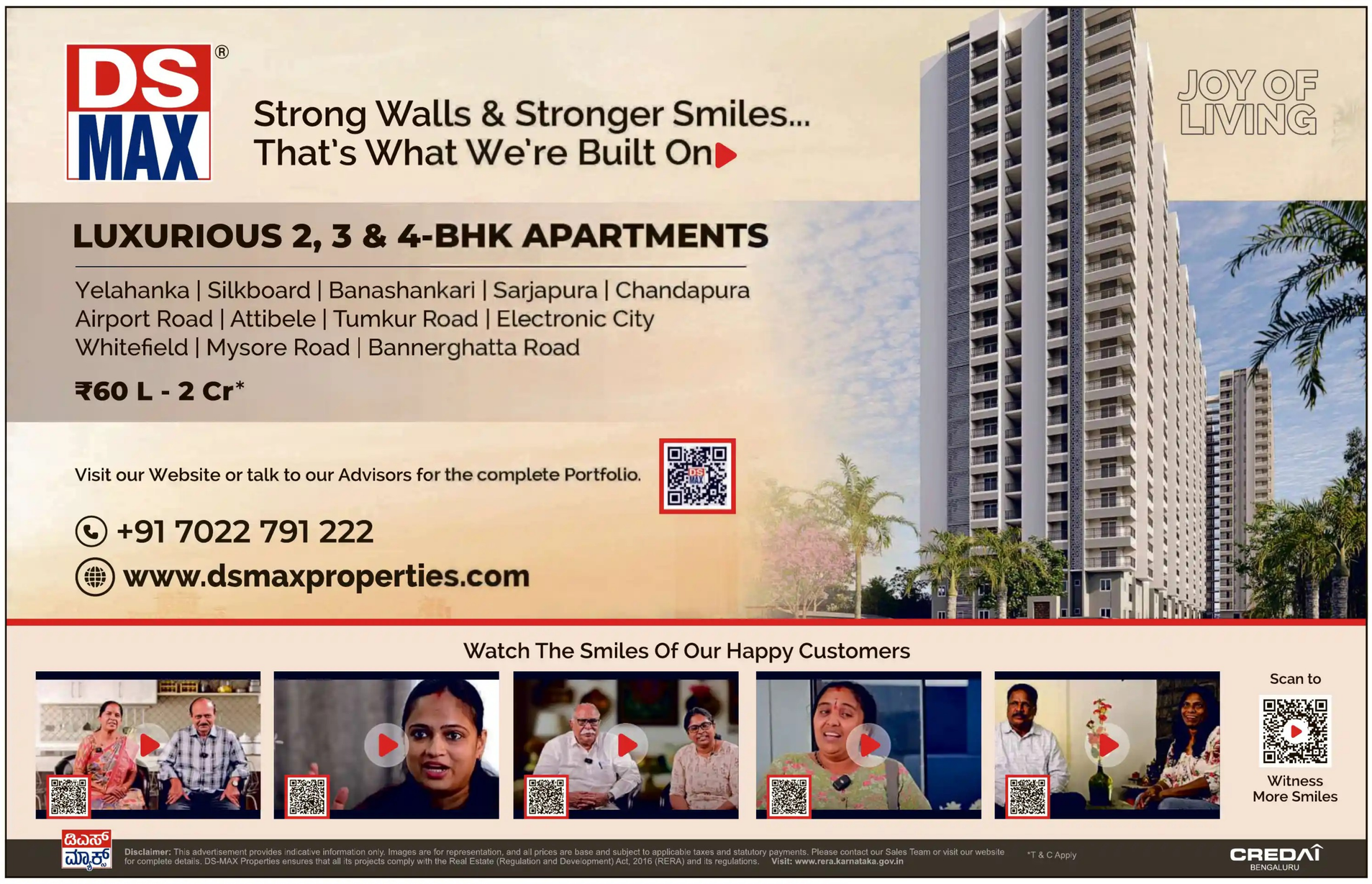
The strategic Srinagar–Jammu highway is closed at multiple stretches due to landslides and cave-ins.

The fresh fatalities highlight the human cost of extreme weather conditions that have ravaged the Union Territory over the past three weeks. More than 160 people, including pilgrims to the Mata Vaishno Devi shrine, have died in cloudbursts, flash floods and landslides since the second week of August.

Appointment of police chief formalised

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Karnataka government on Saturday issued a notification to formalise the appointment of senior IPS officer MA Saleem as the Director General and Inspector General of Police (DG&IGP) and the Head of Police Force (HoPF) of the state police.

A 1993-batch officer, Saleem was born in 1966. He had been given the concurrent charge of DG&IGP after incumbent Alok Mohan's term ended in May this year.
Details on Page 5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CREDAI BENGALURU

Firecracker death: Four arrested

BENGALURU, DHNS: Four people were arrested by the Bengaluru Rural police on Saturday, a day after one teenager died from a firecracker accident in Doddaballapur on the outskirts of Bengaluru during a Ganesha idol immersion procession.

The Doddaballapur Town police arrested Chandrakumar, Maruthi, Kishore and Manjunath.
Details on Page 4A

SIT brings 'masked man' to Bengaluru

BENGALURU, DHNS: The SIT probing the Dharmasthala 'mass burial' case brought on Saturday the complainant-witness in the case to Bengaluru for mahazar proceedings, well-placed sources told DH.

The sources, however, refused to reveal what the SIT was focusing on and whether any evidence was recovered.
Details on Page 5

PAST RENEWED

120-year-old Halasuru Mutt refurbished as a community hub

Yoga, pottery, cafés find a home

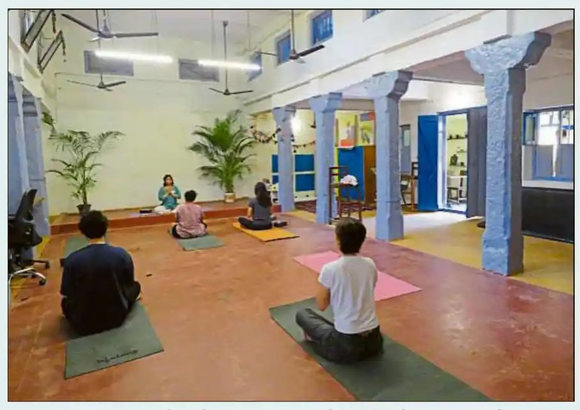
ASRA MAVAD
BENGALURU, DHNS

Tucked inside a quaint street in Halasuru, Bengaluru, a 120-year-old Mutt has been converted into a bright and colourful community space.

Sthala, located on Milkmen Street, was inaugurated on Saturday. The two-storey community centre houses a co-working space, a café, a pottery studio, and a market space, among other facilities.

The idea behind the project is to build a sustainable and inclusive space, said Shantanu Kalambi, founder of Sthala and a wildlife veterinarian by profession. "Since the seer who used to reside in this Mutt passed away many years ago, the building was abandoned and in a dilapidated condition. We didn't want to see a heritage structure like this go to waste, and wanted to turn it into something useful for everyone around," he said.

Currently, some of the organisations and businesses working out of the space include Yellow Veranda Café, Above Zenith, Green Thumbi Hydroponics, Sthira Pottery, and Reefwatch. Ekam Wellness will also be running yoga and therapy sessions from Sthala.



A yoga session in progress after the inauguration of Sthala on Saturday. PHOTO: STHALA

SHANTANU KALAMBI,
Founder, Sthala

"The space is open to all forms of art, culture, and wellness events. People interested in hosting events can also rent out the space.

Shantanu plans to host weekly events at Sthala. "The space is open to all forms of art, culture, and wellness events. People interested in hosting events can also rent out the space," he elaborated. His long-term plan involves turning the narrow street, tucked away next to high-rise buildings, into Bengaluru's very own art district. "This street has several such buildings that are over a hundred years old. Many of them are open to being rented out. In the long run, we want to get the whole community involved and have interactive spaces spread across the street," he added.

The inauguration on Saturday featured various activities such as a yoga session, a talk on coral reef conservation, pottery, and a community movie screening, offering a glimpse of what's to come at the heritage space.

Sailing takes off in Bengaluru with new crash course at Yelahanka Lake

BBMP partners with sports associations

NAVEEN MENEZES
BENGALURU, DHNS

Sailing – an Olympic sport – takes off in Bengaluru. The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) has partnered with the Royal Mysore Sailing Club (RMSC) and has introduced a crash course on sailing at Yelahanka Lake, the largest water body in North Bengaluru.

For the BBMP, this is a first-of-its-kind partnership aimed at popularising the sport of sailing, which is currently practised by the Madras Sappers at Ulsoor Lake. The civic body has leased the contract for three months without charging a fee.

"Sailing is the act of travelling or propelling a boat on water using wind power, harnessing the wind's force on sails to move the vessel. It can be a recreational activity, a sport, or a method of transportation, utilising the wind to navigate across water," said Captain Arvind Sharma, secretary of the Karnataka State Sailing Association (KSSA). He added that sailing has been part of the Olympic Games for over 100 years and is also included in the Asian Games. "There are over 30 medals for sailing in the Olympics today."

In India, sailing is predominantly done by the Indian Navy, the Indian Army, and about 25 civilian sailing clubs.

Sailing makes waves at Yelahanka Lake. PHOTO: BBMP

In Karnataka, the KSSA conducts sailing activities in the backwaters of the KRS dam, where national-level sailing competitions have been held for the last four years.

At Yelahanka Lake, the club plans to offer multiple courses. The first is the Small Boat Scheme, designed to provide a safe and enjoyable introduction to small boat sailing for novices. The course includes an introduction to fundamental boat-handling skills such as rigging, rope work, manoeuvres, rescue procedures, and more. Upon completion of Level One training, participants can progress to Level Two and Level Three.

The club stated that there is no walk-in entry; interested individuals must register online. They, however, did not disclose the charges, stating that fees are not fixed and the courses are offered on a complimentary basis.

Other than RMSC, the BBMP has partnered with the Kayaking & Canoeing Association of Karnataka (KCAK) to provide training at Yele Mallappa Chetty Lake. The Karnataka Amateur Rowing Association had earlier set up a rowing facility at Madiwala Lake, but the activity was stopped after the lake was transferred to the BBMP from the Forest Department about two years ago.

In the past, boating activity was allowed in lakes such as Nagawara and Yelahanka, among others, but was stopped after environmentalists approached the court against the commercial use of lakes.

Exhibition sheds light on lives of city's garment workers

BENGALURU,, DHNS

An archive exhibition titled *Living with the Needle and Thread: Garment Workers and Their Struggles* was held at the Devaraj Urs Gallery, Karnataka Chitrakala Parishath, on Saturday.

Organised by the Garments and Textile Workers Union (GATWU) and Garments Mahila Karmikara Munnade, the exhibition aimed to highlight the lives and contributions of Bengaluru's five lakh garment workers, most of whom are women.

The exhibition covered three main themes: introducing the garment industry and its working conditions, showcasing the activities of Garments Mahila Karmikara Munnade in recognising women workers' dual identity as both workers and women, and documenting their struggles.

Visitors at the exhibition in Bengaluru on Saturday. DH PHOTO/B K JANARDHAN

"The exhibition showcases the struggles and achievements of women garment workers in Bengaluru," said Pratibha R, President of GATWU. "We hope to create awareness about the issues faced by these workers and the efforts being made to address them."

Through photos and infographics, the working conditions faced by these workers — from production torture and low wages to harassment — were showcased, along with the central role of women in the industry, marking a shift from the male-dominated workforce of the early 2000s. The displays emphasise how these workers not only contribute significantly to the export economy but also serve as the backbone of Bengaluru's local economies.

The launch of a new website, Stitching Lives, Organising Workers, which will serve as a digital archive of their history, will be unveiled by garment workers on Sunday.

The exhibition, implemented by the India Foundation for the Arts, is open to the public until Sunday.

◆ IN THE CITY ◆

GENERAL

16th Day Punyaradhane of Kumara Chandrashekaranatha Swamiji: Sanctified by Nirmalanandanatha Swamiji, Shivaratri Deshikendra Swamiji, Siddalinga Swamiji, Veerabhadra Channamalla Deshikendra Swamiji; HD Deve Gowda, HD Kumaraswamy, DK Shivakumar, V Gopalagowda, D.V. Sadananda Gowda, V. Somanna, Shobha Karandlaje, N. Chaluvarayaswamy, R Ashoka, Dr CN Manjunath, Dr CN Ashwathnarayan,Vishwa Okkaligara Mahasamsthana Math, Kengeri; 11 am.

Rotary Tiranga Road Show: Guests are Seemanth Kumar Singh, Sridhar BR Kanwal Kamra: Motofed, Rotary District 3191; From Nexus Vega City to Miraya Greens, Bannerghatta Road; 8 am.

'Karunadu Saviyuta' Competition: Hosted by 'Prajavani', 'Deccan Herald', and 'Freedom Cooking Oil'; Venue: Lulu Mall, Rajajinagar; 9.30 am.

Dinesh Maneer's Photography Exhibition: Venkatappa Art Gallery; 10 am.

Mahasangama of Women Garment Workers 'Safe Workplaces – Equal Voices': Guests: Dr Nagalakshmi Choudhari, K Gayathri, Munnade Samajika Samsthe, Sadhana Trust, Karnataka State Garment and Textile Workers' Union; Kondajji Basappa Auditorium, Scouts and Guides, Palace Road; 10.30 am.

CULTURAL

Kuchipudi Dance Performance: Sriveena Mani and team; Venue: Bandstand, Cubbon Park; 8.30 am.

'Dyuthi' Music, Dance Performance: Tabla: Vikram Ghosh; Flute: Praveen Godkhindi; Dance Performance: Nirupama Rajendra; Meenakshi Rangamancha; 6 pm.

Ganeshotsava Special: Bengaluru Advocate Friends Circle, Bengaluru Advocates Association; dance performance by students of Sai Samskrutika Academy and team: Advocates Association, High Court Unit Hall: 1.30 pm.

RELIGIOUS

'Swami Vivekananda and Nationalism' Lecture: Swami Veereshananda Saraswathi; The Mythic Society, Nrupatunga Road; 11 am.

◆ CITY WEATHER ◆

FORECAST

Generally cloudy sky with one or two spells of rain and thundershowers

TEMPERATURES

Maximum	29.1°C
Minimum	20.5°C
Rainfall (as of 8:30 am)	--
Humidity (as of 5:30 pm)	73%
Sunset (Aug 31)	6:33 pm
Sunrise (Sept 1)	6:08 am
Moonrise	4:49 am
Moonset	10:28 pm

(Relevant data recorded at 5.30 pm) Source: IMD

Invites to be published in this column should be sent to: **incitytoday@deccanherald.co.in.** Please note that hard copies will not be accepted

NOTIFICATION FOR RE- ENGAGEMENT OF RETIRED RAILWAY EMPLOYEE ON CONTRACTUAL BASIS ON RANGIYA DIVISION

No. E/228/Re-engagement/RN/25. Dt. 28.08.2025

SCHEDULE

(i)	Date of Publication of Notification on Website	28.08.25
(ii)	Opening Date for Online Application	29.08.25
(iii)	Closing Date for Online Application	29.09.25

Applications are hereby invited from retired Railway Employees (normal retired persons) for engagement under the scheme of **'Re-engagement of Retired Railway staff"** in exigencies of service to work in various post/categories of different Units of N.F.Railway on monthly remuneration basis against existing vacant posts of different department attached at **ANNEXURE-B.**

Applications are to be submitted **ONLINE only** through the following link & QR Code.

Google form link: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScuQDY_bNtBKd275vmcEvv4nNqdCfZigg0DxhO5sc44gcMjeg/viewform

QR Code

ANNEXURE-B

RE-ENGAGEMENT OF VACANCY POSITION 2025

SN	Department	Categories	Level	No. of existing vacancies	vacancies to be filled up through re-engagement
1	Commercial	CCC	6	11	11
		CCTC	5	5	5
		TC (CTI)	5 to 8	3	3
		TTE (CTTI)	5 to 8	3	3
2	Electrical/TRD	Asst	1	30	30
3	Operating	SS	7	09	09
		SM	6	19	19
		TM (Mail)	6	10	10
		TM (Pass)	6	8	8
		TM (Goods)	6	12	12
		Shuting Master	6	1	1
		Shuting Master	4	1	1
4	Medical	Nursing Staff	7	6	6
		Pharmacist	6	3	3
		H&MI	6	3	3
5	Mech	JE	6	3	3
		Sr. Tech	6	1	1
		Tech-I	5	5	5
		Tech-III	2	3	3
		Ch.OS	7	1	1
		OS	6	1	1
6	Elect/G	JE	6	5	3
		OS	6	2	2
		Sr. Tech/Power	6	4	2
		Sr. Tech/ETS	6	2	1
7	S&T	JE/Signal	6	4	4
		JE/Telecom	6	2	2
		Tech-I/Sig	5	25	25
		Tech-I/Tele	5	5	5
		Tech-III	2	2	2
		OS/G	6	3	1
8	Engg	TMR-I	5	29	14
		TMR-II	4	58	29
		TMR-III	2	166	78
		TMR-IV	1	265	39
		SSE/P.Way	7	7	7
		SSE/Works	7	1	1
		JE/P.Way	6	5	5
					Total = 358

Terms and Conditions for Re-engagement on Retired Staff.

Age Limit : Must be below **64years age as on 29.09.25**. Maximum age limit for such which re-engagement shall continue will be **65 years**.

Remuneration:- Remuneration, allowance and leave of re-engaged retired staff will be as per OM No. F.NO.3-25/2020/E.IIIA dated 09.12.2020 of Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance, Government of India.

Attested photo copy of following mandatory documents should be uploaded with the application :-

(i) Pension Payment Order (ii) Pensioner Identity Card (iii) Bank Pass Book (1st Page) indicating A/C No.& IFSC Code (iv) PAN Card (v) AAdhaar Card (vi) Passport size color photographs (3 copies at the time of DV).

The last date for submission of the application is **29.09.25**

Application received after the cut-off date i.e **29.09.25** will not be accepted/entertained.

Applicants will be called for interview by Rangiya Division by fixing a suitable date.

The details of the notification is also available at NFR's website **www.nfr.indianrailways.gov.in** at Personnel Department Notice Board.

Divisional Railway Manager (P), Rangiya

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AICTE POST GRADUATE (PG) SCHOLARSHIP SCHEME 2025-26

Online proposals are invited from **AICTE approved Institutions** for the **Post Graduate Scholarship** through DBT to the students admitted in **AICTE approved Institute / programs and within approved intake** of M.E./ M.Tech./M.Des. for the 1st year students of the academic year 2025-26 having gained qualiflying marks with valid GATE/CEED score.

Detailed advertisement having guidelines/instructions/FAQs and procedure for online registration and eligibility of the student is available at link : **https://pgscholarship.aicte.gov.in/**

All eligible students are informed that the AICTE PG Scholarship Portal will be opened on **1st September, 2025** and they can upload their information on the AICTE PG portal by **15th December, 2025**. Also it is requested to the institutions shall complete the procedure of student documents verification on or before **31st December, 2025** on AICTE PG Scholarship portal.

Advt. No. SAGB(StdC)/AICTE/08(02)/2025

Member Secretary
AICTE

CBC 21300/12/0010/2526

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1.	कार्य का नाम	**Construction of 50 Bedded Girls Hostel, at- Volleyball Training Centre, Godda.**
2.	प्राक्कलित राशि (रू0)	रू0 2,69,37,700.00 (दो करोड़ उनहत्तर लाख सैंतीस हजार सात सौ) मात्र।
3.	कार्य पूर्ण की अवधि	11 (ग्यारह) माह
4.	वेबसाईट पर निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि	18.09.2025 11:00 बजे
5.	बिड प्राप्ति के लिए अन्तिम तिथि/समय	25.09.2025 11:00 बजे
6.	निविदा प्रकाशित करने वाले कार्यालय का नाम एवं पता	ई–प्रोक्योरमेन्ट सेल कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय, भवन निर्माण विभाग भवन प्रमंडल, गोड्डा।
7.	निविदा खोलने की तिथि/समय एवं स्थान	26.09.2025 12:00 बजे नोडल पदाधिकारी, ई–प्रोक्योरमेन्ट सेल, मुख्य अभियंता का कार्यालय, भवन निर्माण विभाग, लाईन टैंक रोड, झारखण्ड, राँची।
8.	प्रोक्योरमेन्ट पदाधिकारी का सम्पर्क संख्या	8709838492
9.	ई–प्रोक्योरमेन्ट सेल का हेल्पलाईन संख्या	8285834461

10. परिमाण विपत्र की राशि घट–बढ़ सकती है तद्नुसार अग्रधन की राशि देय होगी।
11. सूचना प्रौद्योगिकी एवं ई–गवर्नेंस विभाग, झारखण्ड सरकार के आदेश ज्ञापांक 120 दिनांक 03.10.2023 के द्वारा निर्गत SOP (मानक संचालन प्रक्रिया) एवं भवन निर्माण विभाग, झारखण्ड सरकार के पत्रांक 2229 दिनांक 06.10.2023 के आलोक में निविदा शुल्क एवं अग्रधन की राशि केवल Online Mode द्वारा स्वीकार्य होगी।
12. निविदा शुल्क एवं अग्रधन की राशि का ई–भुगतान जिस खाता से किया जायेगा, SOP के तहत् अग्रधन की राशि उसी खाते में वापस होगी। अगर खाता बंद कर दिया जाता है जो उसकी संपूर्ण जवाबदेही आपकी होगी।

- अन्य किसी भी प्रकार की सूचना बदलाव **http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in** पर देखा जा सकता है।

ई–प्रोक्योरमेन्ट सेल
कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय,
भवन निर्माण विभाग,भवन प्रमंडल, गोड्डा।

PR 360784 Building(25-26)D

CENTRAL RAILWAY
SOLAPUR DIVISION
ENGINEERING WORKS

Divisional Railway Manager (Works), Central Railway, Solapur on Behalf of President of India, invites e-tender from the reputed firms / contractor for the following works. **Tender Notice No.:** 32-2025-SrDENC, **Name of Work: 1.** Intensive rag picking in track and adjacent area beyond 50 m from longest platform on station approaches under ADEN/KWV/BG Two year. **2.** Intensive rag picking in track and adjacent area beyond 50 m from longest platform on station approaches under ADEN/LUR Two year. **3.** Intensive rag picking in track and adjacent area beyond 50 m from longest platform on station approaches under ADEN/PVR Two year. **Approximate Cost of the work:** 1,42,54,310.40, **Earnest Money** : Rs. 2,21,300.00, **Completion period of the work:** 24 Months, **Maintenance Period** : Nil. **Last date & Time of uploading quoted tender on www.ireps.gov.in website:** 23.09.2025 को 15.00 बजे तक. **Date & Time of Opening of tender on www.ireps.gov.in:** 23.09.2025 को 15.30 बजे. The prospective tenderers are advised to revisit the website frequently before the date of closing of tender to note any changes/corrigenda issued for this tender. Website: **www.ireps.gov.in**.

DRM (Works), Solapur

Download UTS App for Tickets SLP-56

LOOKING TO BUILD, BUY OR SELL A PROPERTY
Please refer Classifieds on Sunday

SOUTH INDIAN Bank Date: 30.08.2025
GOLD AUCTION NOTICE

CANTONMENT BRANCH
#10, Infantry Road Cross, B. M. Complex, Opp. Blue Cross Chambers, Shivajinagar, **BANGALORE - 560 001.**
Ph: 080 - 46005898 Email: br0009@sib.co.in

The Gold Articles pledged under the following number/s at **Bangalore Cantonment Branch,** which are not cleared by payment of Bank's dues even after serving registered notice and Gold articles pledged under same number against which registered notices have been served/returned undelivered, will be sold in **public auction or private treaty on as is where is condition** at Branch premises as under or any other convenient date and time without further notice at the risk and responsibility of the pawners, if they are not released from the branch.

Auction of Gold ornaments pledged under the following accounts will be held at Branch premises on **19.09.2025 at 4.00 P.M, Branch : Cantonment, Shivajinagar, Bangalore.**

Sl. No.	Name	A/c No.	Gross Wt (in gms)
1	PRABHU	0009653000064124	8.7
2	NAMA VISWANATHAIAH GOPINATH	0009653000064213	289
3	JULEE JACKQUILINE	0009653000064248	341.6
4	RESHMA BANU	0009653000065300	130.6
5	NAMAM GOPINATH KARTHIK	0009653000065332	45.2
6	ASMA SIDDIQUA	0009653000065393	9.3
7	SHABANA BANU	0009653000065409	23.2

Bank reserves its rights to cancel/ adjourn the auction without giving any reason at any time. *Sd/-* **Manager**

Corporate Office Regd. Office: SIB House, T B Road, Mission Quarters, Thrissur, Kerala - 680001
Telephone Number : + 91-487-2420020, Fax Number : + 91-487-2420020, E-Mail : sibcorporate@sib.co.in,
Website : www.southindianbank.com. Corporate Identity Number: L65191KL1929PLC001017

The Nehrunagar Co-Operative Bank Limited,
No. 172, 1st Main Road, Seshadripuram, Bangalore 560020.
Ph : 23364376 / 23562609. Email Id : info@nehrubank.com

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the **60th Annual General Body Meeting** of the Bank will be held **on Sunday, 7th day of September 2025 at 10.00 am** at **"Sri Malavalli Chikkanna Charitable Trust (Kalyana Mantapa)", Subedar Chatram Road, (Near Seshadripuram Police Station), Seshadripuram, Bangalore 560 020,** to transact the business as set out in the Notice convening the said Annual General Body meeting, which is already posted to the regular members individually at their registered address.

Members are requested to attend the meeting.

Sd/-
Place : Bengaluru
Date : 11/08/2025
Smt. Bharathi R
Chief Executive Officer

Note: The Bank Timings will be changed from 15.09.2025, The working hours will be 9.30 am to 5.30 pm Holidays : Sundays and 2nd & 4th Saturday

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TRACK CHANGE Top official sheds light on current projects, challenges, and next steps

B'luru's rly upgrade: From congestion to connectivity

MUTHI-UR-RAHMAN SIDDIQUI
BENGALURU, DHNS

Spread over 1,144 route kilometres, Bengaluru is an important, fully electrified railway division focused mainly on passenger operations.

The South Western Railway (SWR) has undertaken various projects to upgrade the city's railway infrastructure. These include the high-profile Bengaluru Circular Railway, station modernisation, track doubling and quadrupling, and the ambitious but long-delayed suburban railway project.

While some of these projects have made considerable progress, some are moving at a snail's pace or have nearly stalled.

In a freewheeling interaction with *DH*, the SWR's top-ranking official, General Manager Mukul Saran Mathur, shed light on these projects, their current status, the challenges hindering progress and the way forward.

How far has station modernisation progressed?
Of the city's four terminals, KSR Bengaluru is heavily overutilised, while SMVT Bengaluru and Bengaluru Cantonment remain largely underutilised.

Yeshwantpur and Bengaluru Cantonment are undergoing redevelopment, and work will be completed soon. There is also a plan to modernise KSR Bengaluru and expand its capacity. Two major yard remodelling works have been sanctioned:

Firstly, operational flexibility has been eased through signalling arrangements for reception and dispatch of trains, as part of the yard remodelling executed by the Gati Shakti Unit (GSU).

There will be two additional platforms on the Yeshwantpur grid to handle more trains. We will repurpose a part of the MG Railway Colony and relocate some buildings. The project may see the axing of nearly 200 full-grown trees, and we will take the necessary approvals.

However, connecting the Yeshwantpur grid to the Cantonment grid is not feasible due to land acquisition and reduction in CSL of Rd-10. (CSL, or Clear Sight Line, is the unobstructed distance a loco pilot can see ahead on a track).

The KSR Bengaluru redevelopment will be carried out by RLDA (Rail Land Development Authority). It will monetise land parcels, enhance passenger amenities and improve connectivity to the station. Modalities are being finalised.

Bengaluru Cantonment has eight platforms. Are there any plans to operate more trains from there?
Most of these eight platforms are dead end platforms, meaning trains cannot run through them. A pitline is being built for Vande Bharat train maintenance. We will prefer to run more of these trains from Bengaluru Cantonment.

A new maintenance depot at Thanisandra will make Vande Bharat rakes available for the SWR, and we will be able to introduce more trains.

Is the plan to build a new coaching terminal in Devanahalli still on track?
A meeting held on June 5, 2025, decided that the proposal for a new coaching terminal at Devanahalli is unsuitable due to its distance from the main Bengaluru area and other factors. We may build the terminal but what's the point if nobody uses it?

Instead, we are exploring establishing a new terminal and/or maintenance facility at Yelahanka. Two conceptual plans — one involving complete relocation of the Rail Wheel Factory (RWF) and another retaining it — have been prepared and are under review.

Mukul Saran Mathur, General Manager, South Western Railway.

The Cantonment-Whitefield quadrupling has taken a long time to complete. Why ?
The project faced delays due to land acquisition, which is a challenging thing in dense urban situations. At some places, we also had to make changes due to the Bengaluru Suburban Railway Project (BSRP). The work is now on track. The Cantonment-Baiyappanahalli section will be quadrupled by December and the entire section by March 2026.

What is the SWR doing to reduce travel time from Bengaluru to major cities?
We're increasing speed limits to least 100 kmph across the SWR network. The sectional speed on the Bengaluru-Jolarpettai line has been increased to 130 kmph. However, reducing the overall travel time depends very much on platform availability at stations. We're working on that. The Bengaluru-Mumbai route may benefit from this.

What is the progress on the Bengaluru Circular Railway?
A Detailed Project Report (DPR) is being prepared for building a 240-km circular railway around Bengaluru in the following nodes:

- Nidavanda-Doddaballapur-Devanahalli-Malur: 96 km
- Malur-Anekal Road-Hejjalla: 98 km
- Hejjala-Solur-Nidavanda: 46 km

The project, estimated to cost Rs 81,000 crore at current prices, is proposed to be fully funded by the government of India.

The DPR would consider present and future traffic potential and other factors. Steps would be taken to avoid inhabited areas, heritage/monuments/religious structures and waterbodies.

There was a proposal to build a 7.9-km line from Dodjala to the Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) with three new stations via a rail-over-rail (RoR) flyover. Will it see the light of day?
We held a meeting with the airport authorities to discuss the proposal. They suggested connecting the line to the future Terminal 3. However, our studies showed the line would not fulfill traffic requirements. The project has not been sanctioned.

The BSRP has been painfully slow. L&T Ltd has terminated the contract for two lines. As a key stakeholder in the project, what's your take on this?
The BSRP is not directly under our purview. We are a funding agency and give technical clearances. We don't intervene in day-to-day operations, but we keep reviewing the progress.

The railways was informed of L&T terminating the contract only recently, despite the company having served notice months earlier. Such clauses for unilateral termination are not available in the contract. The contractor's claim that land was not made available is untrue.

On Corridor 2, 21 km is clearly available, with 4 km pending due to private land acquisition, which is the state government's responsibility. On Corridor 4, 25 km has been made available. We are working to remove encroachments from the leased railway land.

Physical progress is 28% on Corridor 2 and 6% on Corridor 4. As of August 25, the overall progress is 18.5%, with expenditure of Rs 1,992.90 crore.

Will K-RIDE, the project implemention agency, get a dedicated managing director?
The process to appoint a dedicated MD has been finalised and will need clearance from the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC).

39 new road bridges planned to ease traffic

BENGALURU, DHNS

In an effort to ease traffic congestion in and around Bengaluru, 39 level crossings (LCs) across the city will soon be replaced by Road Over Bridges (ROBs) and Road Under Bridges (RUBs), V Somanna, Union Minister of State for Railways (MoSR) and Jal Shakti, announced on Friday.

"This will address the city's growing problem of traffic congestion and enhance public safety," said the minister. The upcoming ROBs and RUBs will be located in J B Nagar, Soldevanahalli, and Tharabanahalli, among other places.

Somanna said that between 2014 and 2025, about 75 ROBs and RUBs have been constructed in place of level crossings. Of these, 56 were fully funded by Railways at a cost of Rs 142 crore, 16 were executed under cost-sharing between the State and Central governments, and three were built by the NHAI.

The Bengaluru City Police also presented a list of 28 traffic-congested railway gates in the city where the construction of ROBs and RUBs will be prioritised. Of these, the construction of 13 has already been sanctioned. Some of the locations suggested by the BTP include Doddanekundi, Dubasipalya, and Kengeri.

Additionally, an action plan is being prepared to identify LCs within a 100-km radius of Bengaluru.

The meeting was attended by Bengaluru Central MP P C Mohan, Bengaluru Rural MP C N Manjunath, Kolar MP Mallesh Babu, Joint Commissioner of Police (Traffic) Kartik Reddy, BBMP Chief Maheshwar Rao, and BDA Commissioner Manivannan. Mohan urged the MoSR to coordinate with the BBMP to complete pending projects such as the Carmelaram ROB and Panathur RUB.

"Carmelaram ROB is stuck at 35% due to BBMP's land delays, leaving roads closed and commuters stranded. Panathur RUB, built in 2023, remains underutilised as approach roads and acquisitions are incomplete," he said.

He also suggested that the Bengaluru Suburban Rail Project be handed over to the Railways to "avoid further delays."

Gubbi station to get light ROB

Minister Somanna laid the foundation stone for the construction of a Light Road Over Bridge (ROB) at Gubbi Railway Station on Saturday. The project has been sanctioned at an estimated cost of Rs 20 crore. The minister stated that the station was being developed under the Amrit Bharat Station Scheme to enhance passenger amenities and infrastructure. S R Srinivas, Gubbi MLA and KSRTC chairman, was also present.

BMRCL MD inspects Phase 2A corridor

BENGALURU, DHNS: Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) Managing Director J Ravishankar, IAS, along with the Director, Executive Director, and other senior officials of BMRCL, conducted a comprehensive inspection of the Phase 2A metro corridor — from Central Silk Board to the Baiyappanahalli depot entry line and from Kalena Agraharam to MG Road, part of the Reach 6 line — recently.

The inspections focused on the progress of civil construction, finishing works, track installation, and system-related components essential to the corridor's set targets. He emphasised the importance of inter-agency coordination and timely execution to meet the corridor's strategic mobility objectives and enhance Bengaluru's urban transit infrastructure.

After teen's death, spotlight on loopholes in cracker safety

Officials admit challenges in crowd control

ASHWIN B M
BENGALURU, DHNS

Following the tragic firecracker explosion during a Ganesh Chaturthi procession in Doddaballapur, which resulted in the death of a 15-year-old boy and injuries to six others, officials have highlighted a persistent issue of celebratory carelessness and regulatory loopholes.

The Bengaluru City Police conceded that it is tough for them to ensure crowd control and smooth flow of traffic amidst Ganesha immersion processions.

DCP South Division, Lokesh B. Jagalasar, said it is often seen that revellers or people celebrating cultural events carelessly burst firecrackers without concern for the safety of pedestrians, vehicles, or themselves. He explained that despite their best efforts to educate people, such acts of celebration are sometimes seen in their absence, which puts lives at risk. "Wherever such incidents are seen, we continue to take stringent action," he added.

However, DCP Northeast Division, Sajeeth V. J., said that under the Explosives Act, only the storage of permanent licence holders is routinely checked by the police. If they receive complaints that firecrackers are being burst in public places, they take action. These firecrackers should be burst in designated places, and organisers should take precautionary measures by identifying specific areas for them. He added, "We cannot completely ban crackers; instead, we can put up some restrictions."

DCP Central Division, Akshay M. Hakay, stated that dealers should obtain a No Objection Certificate (NOC) from the department and maintain their godowns according to the materials used in the crackers. However, he noted, "After the sale of the crackers, there is no safety — it depends on how the end consumers use them." He also suggested that in the incident in question, a case should be filed against the manufacturers as well, because the skyrocket shots literally burst when lit. "In this case, it might have been a manufacturing defect. It's a public safety issue, and in this aspect, citizens should be self-aware."

Manjunath Gowda, a member of the Mahalakshmipuram Ganesha Utsava, said, "We have always had fire safety and have a strict policy against bursting firecrackers in our celebration areas, especially on roads. The idea is to ward off evil, but while bursting crackers we should not bring evil upon ourselves and the public," he added.

Another organiser in the neighbourhood of Malleswaram, Satish Kumar, said, "Bursting crackers is a new trend. If you go back, they used to make sounds using bells and other ghantas, which was really a good practice and eco-friendly. But now it has become a trend and a competition among area organisers to see who will burst more crackers. It's almost like a contest, which is unfair," he added.

Four arrested after firecracker accident

BENGALURU, DHNS

Four people were arrested by the Bengaluru Rural police on Saturday, a day after a teenager died in a firecracker accident in Doddaballapura on the outskirts of Bengaluru during a Ganesha idol immersion procession.

The Doddaballapura Town police swiftly arrested Chandrakumar, Maruthi, Kishore, and Manjunath, Bengaluru Rural Superintendent of Police (SP) C K Baba confirmed to *DH*. All four were locals and had organised the immersion procession.

They have been booked under Section 105 (culpable homicide not amounting to murder) and Section 125A (act endangering life or personal safety of others) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), along with other relevant sections.

Yogesh, 15, who was among the six injured, remained critical and under treatment, senior officers said. The five others were out of danger, the sources added.

On Friday, between 5.45 pm and 6 pm, a multi-shot cracker box kept on a forklift carrying the Ganesha idol was ignited, suspectedly due to the heat of the silencer. The crackers struck members of the crowd.

Muni alias Dhanush, 15, was killed after a rocket hit him in the ribs.

Among the injured was Doddaballapura Town police constable Zakir Hussain, who was part of the team manning the crowd. He was near the forklift, directing the driver to move quickly, when a cracker hit him and sliced a chunk of flesh from his left arm.

The others who sustained injuries but were out of danger included two children aged 13 and 16; Muniraju, 27, the forklift driver; and Nagaraj, 35, a local resident who had stepped out of his house to watch the procession.

On Saturday, Deputy Commissioner (DC) A B Basavaraj issued an order completely banning the bursting of firecrackers in Bengaluru Rural district. "Permission was given to install the Ganesha idols. Water tanks were also set up for immersion. The organisers gave an affidavit saying they would make sure no untoward incidents took place. Despite this, such an incident has happened. Hence, I have issued the order with immediate effect," Basavaraj told *DH*.

As per the order seen by *DH*, bursting of any type of crackers is henceforth prohibited in Bengaluru Rural district during Ganesha idol installations and immersion processions, as well as at any other political or religious programmes where large gatherings take place. The order was passed following a proposal on the matter by Bengaluru Rural SP C K Baba.

Over 1.1 lakh Ganesha idols immersed

BENGALURU, DHNS: On Friday, 1.14 lakh Ganesha idols were immersed across lakes and temporary tanks in the city. The highest number of idols were immersed in the South Zone (52,181), followed by the East Zone (36,725). The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) has allowed Ganesha idol immersions at 41 lakes and 489 temporary tanks.

Blue skies and tailwinds.
Farewell.

Air Commodore M.K. Chandrasekhar, VM, VSM

08-11-1933 to 29-08-2025

Deeply mourned by
Valli Chandrasekhar
Devika, Ved, Anju and Rajeev Chandrasekhar
Anjali, Ambika, Daya and Anil Menon.

Farm ponds increase cultivable area, double farmers' income

3.14 lakh ponds constructed in two phases of Krishi Bhagya Scheme

PAVAN KUMAR H
HUBBALLI, DHNS

Over the last decade, the farm-pond scheme has increased the cultivable area in rain-fed areas of Karnataka by at least 30% and has doubled the income of marginal farmers.

The agriculture department, quoting surveys conducted by National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development Consultancy Services (NABCON) and universities of agriculture sciences, say 90% of marginal farmers have doubled their income by cultivating second crops using water stored in agri-ponds. There has also been diversification of crops in several dry areas.

Since its inception in 2014, the state has created 3.14 lakh agri-ponds in two phases of Krishi Bhagya Scheme. These cumulatively can store nearly 1,534.58 lakh cubic metres of water.

Depending on the nature of the soil, these farm-ponds can store around 1.56 lakh litres to 11.43 lakh litres of water and each tank can be filled five times in a season. Using drip/sprinkler irrigation, a farmer can cultivate one hectare of land using 2.5 lakh litres of water.

Depending on the nature of the soil, farm ponds can store 1.56 lakh litres to 11.43 lakh litres of water.

Karnataka's 64% of cultivable area is rain-fed. The scheme, which was earlier limited to just 106 taluks, has now expanded to all the 223 drought-prone taluks.

"Farmers are understanding the importance of agri-ponds. This year (since March) alone, the department has sanctioned and completed nearly 5,063 agri-ponds, which is one of the highest in recent years. The water stored in these ponds can help farmers take up multiple crops," said a senior agriculture department officer.

According to a sample survey (5,373 marginal farmers) conducted by the department, it was found that through supportive irrigation, farmers obtained a better yield and diversified to other crops.

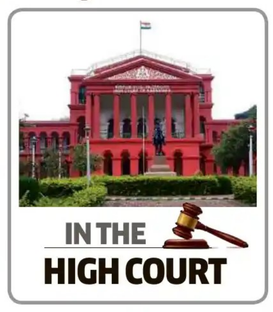
"With assured water for the second crop, ragi, jowar, maize and tur growing farmers took up vegetables, flowers and horticulture crops cultivation," said Agriculture Department Director G T Putra.

He also says agri-ponds have changed the cropping pattern, land use, cropped areas, water use efficiency, crop yield increase and most importantly, income of farmers. "Our study states that 90% of marginal and small scale farmers, who have opted for Krishi Bhagya scheme, have benefited financially and socially," he says.

Hanumanthappa Doddamani, a farmer in Kusgal, Dharwad district says since he constructed an agri-pond on his four acres of rain-fed farm in 2019, he has almost doubled his income. "Earlier, during the monsoon, I used to cultivate only green gram. Now, with water stored in the agri-pond, I have been cultivating chili and cotton that is giving me additional income," he says.

Rainwater harvesting expert Devaraj Reddy says agri-ponds should be made a must for all farmers as it not only ensures water security, but also helps farmers double their income. "Drilling borewells won't assure water to farmers. Instead, farmers should be encouraged to opt for farm ponds, which not only store portable water but are also assured resources. With modern irrigation technology, including drip and mist, farmers can plan their second crop," he says.

Bhoo odetan samiti has no suo motu power to cancel regd sale deeds: High Court



BENGALURU, DHNS: The high court has said that the Bhoo Odetan Yojaneya Anusthan Samiti (BOYAS) or the implementation committee under the land ownership scheme, headed by the Deputy Commissioner, has no power to suo motu cancel or annul registered sale deeds.

A division bench comprising Chief Justice Vibhu Bakhru and Justice C M Poonacha said this while dismissing the writ appeal filed by Ashok and two others, residents of Gabbur village, Hubballi taluk of Dharwad district.

Certain lands owned by three women; Neelavva, Shankaravva, and Paravva, belonging to the Scheduled Tribe category, were a part of the acquisition under the Land Acquisition Act. In light of the acquisition, a decision was taken to rehabilitate all such persons, in all 13 persons belonging to the Schedule Tribe category. It was decided to execute the sale deeds to these three women, two acres each, in Hireharkuni village, Kundagol taluk. Sale deeds were also executed after the women contributed 50% of the consideration by raising a loan from SC/ST Development Corporation Ltd. In the meanwhile, three persons; Ashok, Basavaraj and Siddappa, filed applications claiming entitlement to similar benefits. Based on these applications, the Deputy Commissioner and Chairman of BOYAS, Dharwad, passed a resolution cancelling the sale deeds executed in favour of the three women. This was done with the objective of releasing the land sold to them and apportioning a part of the land in favour of Ashok and two others.

Ashok and two others moved an appeal after a single bench held that the right and title of the three women under the registered sale deed cannot be taken away by the resolution passed by the Deputy Commissioner. The women had argued before the single bench that the BOYAS had no right to cancel the concluded sale transaction.

The division bench noted that the appellants (Ashok and others) failed to show any provision of law that enables the Samiti to cancel the sale deeds. "The title in t he land was conveyed to the three women, and the same cannot be cancelled except in accordance with the law. The Samiti has no power to suo motu cancel or annul registered sale deeds," the bench said.

Temple priest held for derogatory remark on CM

BENGALURU, DHNS: An assistant priest of a temple, who has now been dismissed from his role, was arrested for allegedly making derogatory remarks on Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, police said on Saturday.

The Kengeri police in southwest Bengaluru arrested Gururaj Achar. They registered a suo motu case after clippings of the video had gone viral, officials said.

The remarks were made on the state government's decision to invite Booker prize winner Banu Mushtaq to inaugurate this year's Mysuru Dasara festival.

In a statement, the Sri Raghavendra Seva Samithi trust said that Achar was dismissed from his role as a priest. "He is not a priest of Raghavendra Swamy Mutt, but an assistant priest of a Ganesha temple attached to it. He has since been dismissed," the committee said, adding that they strongly condemned his remarks.

President's visit: Security drill conducted in Mysuru

MYSURU, DHNS: The city police have beefed up security measures from Saturday, in view of President Draupadi Murmu's visit to Mysuru, on Monday and Tuesday. Vehicular traffic was also restricted on various roads, expected to be used by the President.

Mysuru City Police Commissioner Seema Latkar held a meeting with the city police at CAR Grounds in Mysuru on Saturday.

On September 1, Murmu will reach Mysuru airport from Bengaluru in a special aircraft.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah will receive her at the airport at 3.10 pm. She will take part in the Diamond Jubilee celebrations of All India Institute of Speech and Hearing (AIISH) at 4 pm. She is scheduled to visit Chamundi Hill on Monday at 8 pm.

On September 2, she will visit Mysuru Palace at 8.50 am. She will be welcomed by Pramoda Devi Wadiyar, head of the erstwhile royal family.

This will be the President's second visit to Mysuru. Earlier, she had launched Nada Habba Dasara on September 26, in 2022. In view of the President's visit, devotees will be allowed to visit Sri Chamundeshwari Devi Temple only from 7.30 am to 2 pm and post 8.30 pm on Monday.

The visitors' entry will be prohibited to Mysuru Palace till 11.30 am on September 2. The Sound and Light programme has also been cancelled on September 1 evening.

AIISH Director M Pushpavathi has stated in a press note that public entry and treatment has been cancelled on September 1 and a holiday has been declared to all the departments.

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER,
PUBLIC WORKS DEPT. DIVISION, GADAG.
Phone No : 08372-238782 Fax No. 08372-237268
E.Mail : eepwdgad@gmail.com
No: EEPWDGDG PB- 1 :Diferent Head : 2025-26 /2151
Dated : 29-08-2025

Tender Notification

The Executive Engineer, Public works department. Division,Gadag invites itemwise tenders from eligible tenderers of 55 work of total amount of Rs. **1686.61** Lakh (Min estimate amount: Rs. **06.00** Lakhs to Max Estimate Amount: **94.00** Lakhs) for the Different Head of account on behalf of the Hon'able Governor of Karnataka as per Standard Bid Document KW-1, 2, and 3 through **http://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in/**

Work Indent No : Part-1 : 24469-ST, 24461, 23882, 24468-SC, 24501, 24431, 24447, 24439, 23880, 23884, 23887-SC, 23891, 24450, 24345-Category-I, 24290, 24299-ST, 24396, 24422-ST, 24462-Category-2A, 24430--Category-2A, 24493-SC, 24007-SC, 24441, 23799-Category-2A, 23802-SC, 23803, 23809, 23813-Category-2A, 23819-Category-2A, 23821, 23824, 23827, 23830, 23834-Category-1, 23836-Category-2A, 23838-ST, 23843, 23849, 23853-SC, 23861-SC, 23863, 24463, 24401, 24300-Category-1, 24301, 24403-SC, 24008-Category-2A, 23934, 24452, 24287-SC, 24318, 24337-ST, and 24319.

(a) Last Date for Clarification up to : **08-09-2025** (b) Last Date for Receipt of Tenders : **10-09-2025** Noon 4.00 PM (c) Opening of Technical Bid Date : **11-09-2025** (d) Opening of Financial Bid Date : **12-09-2025**

Work Indent No : Part-2 : 19848/Call-2, 22373 /Call-2 - Category-2A

(a) Last Date for Clarification up to : **12-09-2025** (b) Last Date for Receipt of Tenders : **17-09-2025** Noon 4.00 PM (c) Opening of Technical Bid Date : **18-09-2025** (d) Opening of Financial Bid Date : **19-09-2025**

GST shall be paid separately as per prevailing Government Order. The increase in GST shall not be paid in the extended period of contract for which the contractor alone is responsible for delay as determined by the authority while granting the extension of time.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, P.W.D. Division, Gadag.
DIPR/Gadag/KSMCA/257/2025-26

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
Department of Health & Family Welfare
Karnataka State AIDS Prevention Society
Arogya Soudha, 4th Floor, 1st Cross, Magadi Road, Bengaluru-560023.
Tel: 080-29557021, email: pdksaps@gmail.com

No. KSAPS/ADM/27/2024-25 **Dated: 26.08.2025**

Invitation for short term tender (Call-3) through e-Procurement

Short term tender (Call-3) are invited for Hiring of Vehicles (cars) on Monthly Basis under E-Procurement System. Details are available at e-procurement website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** Last date for submission of tender on **15/09/2025 at 5.30pm.**

Sd/- Project Director
DIPR/CP/2561/Zen/2025-26 **Karnataka State AIDS Prevention Society, Bengaluru**

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN: U40109KA1999SGC025521)
No: CEE/TR(O)ZB/SEE(O)/AEE-3/F-306(1)/DBP/2025-26/4795-96 Date:21.08.2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through KPPP mode only)

KPTCL invites bid against the **enquiry No: KPTCL/CEE/T(O) Z/BZ/TTK-14** for the work "Replacement of 11kV Busbar of Coyote Conductor by Drake Conductor at **66/11kV Tubgere Sub-station,** in Operation Division, Doddaballapura **on Total Turnkey Basis** including supply of all matching materials/equipments and erection (including civil works) of all materials/equipments, testing and commissioning".

The bids will be received through electronic tender mode only. The detailed notification regarding the subject enquiry in the E-tendering process can be obtained by logging on to KPP Portal website: **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in on or after 15.09.2025.** Other details can be obtained from the office of the undersigned.

Sd/- Chief Engineer (Ele), Transmission (Operations) Zone, KPTCL, A.R. Circle, Bengaluru-09

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
(ಮೀನುಗಾರಿಕೆ ಇಲಾಖೆ)
ಮೀನುಗಾರಿಕೆ ಜಂಟಿ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರ ಕಛೇರಿ,
ಹಬ್ಬುವಾಡ ಕಾರವಾರ–581306
ಮೊ.ನಂ: 9448575374 email: jdfisherieskarwar@gmail.com
ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: HAR/01/2025 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 29–08–2025.

ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಮರು ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ (ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಮಾತ್ರ)

ಮೀನುಗಾರಿಕೆ ಇಲಾಖೆಯ ಮುರುಡೇಶ್ವರ ಮೀನುಗಾರಿಕೆ ಹೊರಬಂದರು ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಾಗಿ ಅಗತ್ಯವಿರುವ ಪರಿಸರ ವಿಮೋಚನಾ ಪತ್ರ ಮತ್ತು ಇತರೆ ನಿರಕ್ಷೇಪಣಾ ಪತ್ರ ಪಡೆಯಲು ಅರ್ಹ ಕನ್ಸಲ್ಟೆನ್ಸಿ ಏಜನ್ಸಿಯವರಿಂದ ಇ–ಪ್ರೂಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಮುಖೇನ ಮರು ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ದಸ್ತಾವೇಜು ಇ–ಪ್ರೂಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪ್ಲಾಟ್ ಫಾರಂ ಅಡಿ ದಿನಾಂಕ: **05–09–2025** ಸಂಜೆ **5:00** ಗಂಟೆಯೊಳಗೆ ಅಪ್‌ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ. **Tender No:DOF/2025-26/SE3535/CALL -3**

ಸಹಿ/– ಮೀನುಗಾರಿಕೆ ಜಂಟಿ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು, ಕಾರವಾರ (ಪ್ರಭಾರ)
DIPR/KWR/KSMCA/433/25-26 dt. 30.08.2025

ಕೃಷಿ ಮಾರಾಟ ಇಲಾಖೆ
ಕೃಷಿ ಉತ್ಪನ್ನ ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆ ಸಮಿತಿ
ಮಹಾತ್ಮ ಗಾಂಧಿ ಸಂಕೀರ್ಣ, ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆ ಪ್ರಾಂಗಣ, ಯಶವಂತಪುರ,
ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು – 560022. ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 080–23472850/23371695
ಇ–ಮೇಲ್: apmcbangalore22@gmail.com

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಕೃಉಮಾಸ/ಬೆಂ/2196/ಸ್ವಚ್ಛತೆ/2025–26 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 29–08–2025

ಸಂಕ್ಷಿಪ್ತ ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

2025–26 ನೇ ಸಾಲಿಗೆ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಕೃಷಿ ಉತ್ಪನ್ನ ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆ ಸಮಿತಿಯ ಯಶವಂತಪುರ ಮುಖ್ಯ ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆ ಪ್ರಾಂಗಣ, ದಾಸನಪುರ ಉಪ ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಯಲಹಂಕ ರೈತರ ಸಂತೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ದಿನನಿತ್ಯ ಶೇಖರಣೆಯಾಗುವ ಕಸವನ್ನು ಸ್ವಚ್ಛಗೊಳಿಸಿ ಪ್ರಾಂಗಣದಿಂದ ಆಯಾ ದಿನವೇ ದಾಸನಪುರ ಉಪ ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆ ಪ್ರಾಂಗಣದ ಘನತ್ಯಾಜ್ಯ ನಿರ್ವಹಣಾ ಘಟಕಕ್ಕೆ ಸಾಗಾಣಿಕೆ ಮಾಡಲು ಹಾಗೂ ದಾಸನಪುರ ಉಪ ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆ ಪ್ರಾಂಗಣದ ಘನತ್ಯಾಜ್ಯ ಘಟಕ ನಿರ್ವಹಣೆಗಾಗಿ ಅರ್ಹ ಹಾಗೂ ಅನುಭವ ಹೊಂದಿದ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ ಏಜೆನ್ಸಿಯಿಂದ ಕನಿಷ್ಠ ವೇತನ ಕಾಯ್ದೆಗಳನ್ವಯ ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸಿರುವಂತೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಕರೆಯಲಾಗಿದೆ. **(Tender No: APMC/2025-26/SE0731)** ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: **30–09–2025** ರಂದು ಸಂಜೆ **4.30** ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಾಗಿ ಈ ಕಛೇರಿಯ ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: **080–23472850** ನ್ನು ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬಹುದು.

ಸಹಿ/– ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿ ಸಹಿ/– ಆಡಳಿತಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು
ಕೃಉಮಾಸ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಜಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ವಾ.ಪ್ರ/2526/ಆಡ್ಮಿರ್ಸ್/2025–26 ಕೃಉಮಾಸ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು

सत्यमेव जयते

MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE & EMPOWERMENT
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL JUSTICE & EMPOWERMENT
announces

SCHOLARSHIPS FOR SCHEDULED CASTE
students to pursue Higher Education under the

Post-Matric Scholarships Scheme for SC students for the Year 2025-26

ELIGIBILITY	SCOPE	ENTITLEMENT
✔ Parents' / Guardians' annual income not exceeding **Rs. 2.50 Lakh**	✔ All recognised courses from class **XI** onwards	✔ Compulsory **non-refundable fees** (including tuition fee)
✔ Students pursuing courses in recognised Institutions/Universities /Colleges/ Schools	✔ Applications are accepted and verified by the State Government /Union Territory	✔ Academic allowance ranging from **Rs. 2500 to Rs. 13500** per annum
	✔ Coverage of the poorest households	✔ **10%** extra allowance for Divyang (specially abled) students

✔ Student should have a valid **Mobile Number, Aadhaar Number (UID), Aadhaar seeded Bank Account, Income Certificate, Previous year Marksheet and Caste Certificate.**

✔ Scheme guidelines and detailed eligibility criteria available on below mentioned link:
https://socialjustice.gov.in/schemes/25

Scan QR Code for Scheme Guidelines

CBC 38101-11-0016-2526

KARNATAKA STATE POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD
#49, "Parisara Bhavan", 1st to 5th Floor, Church Street, Bengaluru-560001, Karnataka,
Phone: 25581383, 25589112, 25586520, Fax: 080-25586321
E-mail: ho@kspcb.gov.in, Website: https://kspcb.karnataka.gov.in

NO. PCB/313/SEO/MINES/EPH/2025-26/2265 **Date: 30.08.2025**

ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEARING NOTIFICATION

M/s. Mavenforever Private Limited has proposed to establish Mineral Beneficiation Plant of capacity 4.95 LTPA in an Area of 3.24 Acres (revenue land) at Sy. No. 21/1, Dindadahalli Village, Chitradurga Taluk, Chitradurga District. This project proposal falls under Category B1, Activity 2(b) – 'Mineral Beneficiation', as per the Environmental Impact Assessment Notification, 2006" and its amendments.

As per the Environment Impact Assessment Notification dated:14.09.2006 and Amendment dated: 01.12.2009, the project proponent has to obtain prior Environmental Clearance from the State Level Environment Impact Assessment Authority and is required to go through the process of Environmental Public Hearing. As per the Terms of Reference letter (ToR) No. SEIAA 03 IND 2025 dated:10.03.2025 issued by the SEIAA, Karnataka and request letter of the project proponent dated:07.04.2025 and the Environmental Officer, Regional Office, Chitradurga letter dated:08.07.2025, the Environmental Public Hearing was scheduled on 22.08.2025 and the same was published in the newspapers (Kannada: Prajavani & English: Indian Express) on 22.07.2025

Further, the Office of the Deputy Commissioner, Chitradurga District vide Note dated: 20.08.2025 informed to the Board that, the Environmental Public Hearing scheduled on 22.08.2025 has been postponed due to heavy rainfall in Chitradurga District, which would cause inconvenience to the public to attend the hearing and postponed in consideration of public interest.

Now, the Environmental Officer, Regional Office, Chitradurga in their letter dated:28.08.2025 has informed that, the Deputy Commissioner, Chitradurga District has re-scheduled the date & time for conducting Environmental Public Hearing on 16.09.2025 (Tuesday) at 11:30 AM.

The details of the project are as follows:

1. Name of the Company & Address : M/s. Mavenforever Private Limited., No. 34/11, Sri Hanuman Badavane, Hebbal, Bengaluru Urban–560 032.
2. Location of the Proposed Project : Sy. No. 21/1, Dindadahalli Village, Chitradurga Taluk, Chitradurga District.
3. Project proposed : Proposed to establish Mineral Beneficiation Plant of capacity 4.95 LTPA in an Area of 3.24 Acres.
4. Date, time and venue of Environmental Public Hearing : Date: 16.09.2025 (Tuesday), Time: 11:30 AM, Place: Project Site, Sy. No. 21/1, Dindadahalli Village, Chitradurga Taluk, Chitradurga District.

5. Places of availability of project documents as per EIA Notification, which is kept open to public are: (a) Office of the Deputy Commissioner, Chitradurga District, Chitradurga. (b) Office of Chief Executive Officer, Zilla Panchayat, Chitradurga District, Chitradurga. (c)District Industries Centre, Chitradurga District, Chitradurga. (d) Thasildar Office, Chitradurga Taluk, Chitradurga District. (e) Office of the Deputy Director, Dept. of Mines & Geology, Chitradurga. (f) Gram Panchayath Office, Bheemasamudra Gram Panchayat, Chitradurga Taluk. (g) Office of the Regional Office, Karnataka State Pollution Control Board, Chitradurga. (h) SEIAA, Karnataka (Ecology and Environment), Department of Forest, Ecology and Environment, Government of Karnataka, Room No. 709, 7th Floor, 4th Gate, MS Building, Bengaluru – 560001. (i) HELP DESK, Karnataka State Pollution Control Board, Ground Floor, No. 49, Parisara Bhavana, Church Street, Bengaluru – 560001.

NOTE: Suggestions, views, comments and objections of interested bonafide residents, environmental groups and others located at project site and likely to be affected by the proposed project are invited within 15 days from the date of publication of this Notification to make oral/written/E-Mail suggestions to the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board/ Chairman, Environmental Public Hearing Committee (Deputy Commissioner, Chitradurga District, Chitradurga). Interested public can participate in the Public Hearing at the above place. For details please visit our Website: **https://kspcb.karnataka.gov.in/.**

Sd/-
Member Secretary

Hon'ble 1st Additional District Court, Mangaluru, D.K.
Kom Amaldari No.: 667/2010
Between:
Karnataka State Industrial and Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited
....Applicants
And
M/s. Veekay Club & Homes Private Limited and Others
...Defendants

PUBLIC AUCTION NOTICE FOR SALE OF FLAT

It is hereby notified to the public that:

The immovable property detailed in the schedule below, situated at Bangra Kuluru Village, Mangaluru Taluk, D.K. District, in its 'as is' condition, pursuant to the court order for the recovery of the debt of the counterparty, will be auctioned in accordance with the provisions of the Civil Procedure Code on 15.09.2025 at the immovable property site and on 18-09-2025 in the Court, subject to the following conditions.

Schedule

Immovable Property: Flat No. 1-75/8, 1st Floor, 2110 sq. ft. area, Survey No. 32-2A, Bangra Kuluru Village, N.H. 17, Mangaluru Taluk, D.K. District.

Conditions

1. Bidders can participate in the public auction on 15.09.2025 at the property site, or in the Court on 18.09.2025, in personal accord and must pay the auction amount only from their own bank account.
2. Bidders must provide a copy of their Aadhaar Card and PAN Card before participating in the auction.
3. Bidders should first ensure their eligibility to purchase the immovable property and participate in the auction, and shall be responsible for any violation of law.
4. Partnership firms / Companies/ HUFs may participate in the auction with the prior permission of the Court.
5. Each bidder shall deposit Rs. 2,00,000/- with this Court before 10-09-2025. The deposit shall be treated as advance payment towards the purchase of the immovable property or shall be refunded at the time of auction.
6. The above conditions and the general auction rules shall apply to the public auction.
7. The public may participate in the public auction.

This announcement is made pursuant to the order of the Hon'ble Court dated 19.08.2025.

Sd/- Chief Administrative Officer, District Court, D.K. District, Mangaluru.

Advocate for the Applicant
K. Radhakrishna Rai
Mob: 8310222794

CLASH ROOM OF IDEAS Stakes are high, say stakeholders opposing SEP panel's 2-language idea

'2's comfort, 3's crowd' formula may crowd out state's kids in global order

RASHMI BELUR
BENGALURU, DHNS

> If the government tries to impose these recommendations, we will be forced to take up a legal fight against it
>
> **D Shashi Kumar**
> General secretary of Associated Management of Primary and Secondary Schools in Karnataka

Shifting from the three-language formula to two-language policy, and implementation of mother tongue or Kannada as medium of education - two major recommendations of the State Education Policy (SEP) commission - have received criticism from various stakeholders, with some warning of legal consequences.

The commission recently submitted its report to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah. Private schools and parents have strongly opposed the recommendations.

'It's limitation not liberation'

They say the language a child learns should be the discretion of the child and the parent. They call it an "Injustice to state board students and national misalignment".

Presently, Karnataka follows a three-language structure: Kannada, English and a third language, class 6 onwards.

"This model has ensured that our students are not only proficient in Kannada and English, but are also exposed to an additional national language. This aligns with Unesco's definition of multilingual education (mother tongue + regional/national language + international language). Curtailing the third language will deprive students of parity with peers across India, particularly CBSE and ICSE students, who continue to access diverse language options," argues D Shashi Kumar, general secretary of Associated Management of Primary and Secondary Schools in Karnataka.

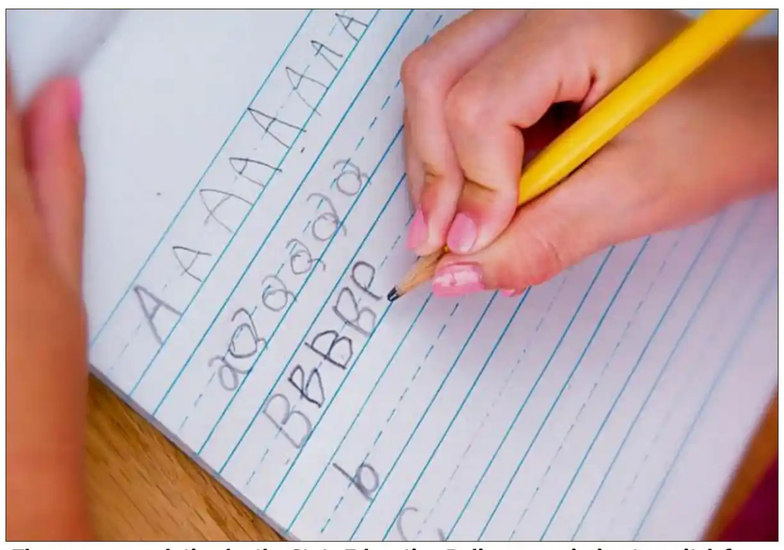
He said medium of instruction is a settled matter by the constitutional bench of the Supreme Court. The choice lies with parents and child. They should have considered this while framing the policy. This is also a violation of minority rights. The two-language policy violates Article 350 of the Constitution, Shashi Kumar said.

A former bureaucrat who worked with the school education department said, "It will harm employability and global readiness as multilingual skills give students cognitive, cultural and career advantages documented by research. Switching back to a two-language policy will create state-level isolation, producing graduates less prepared for national integration and global opportunities. This will undo decades of progress in aligning Karnataka with the national education vision".

The private schools association claims the recommendations are a violation of constitutional and Supreme Court mandates.

"The Supreme Court's constitutional bench in the KAMS vs Government of Karnataka (2014) case held that language policy must not curtail rights of parents, schools and students in educational choices, particularly regarding medium and language of instruction. In the Parents Association vs Government of Karnataka case, the validity of the government order is questioned in the writ petition on the ground that it is violative of Articles 29 and 30 of the Constitution," said a senior advocate of the association.

"It is violative of Article 14 of the Constitution insofar as equal opportunity is not provided, in that students belonging to minority communities are discriminated against. The infringement of the right guaranteed under Article 350-A of the Constitution is apparent on the face of the impugned order as it prevents linguistic minority groups from availing the opportunity of choices of languages. The court reaffirmed that the state cannot impose restrictive policies that reduce access to broader educational opportunities or curtail the scope of multilingual learning," he said.



The recommendation by the State Education Policy commission to switch from a three-language formula to a two-language system has triggered a debate on the future of education in the state.

MEDIUM OF CONSTRICTION?

- Recommendation contradicts 2014 Supreme Court order
- Two-language policy will be a setback for Kannada
- Teachers of third language fear losing jobs

Legal challenge

Shashi Kumar says any dilution to a two-language formula would violate constitutional protections, exposing the state government to legal challenge.

"If the government tries to impose these recommendations, we will be forced to take up a legal fight against it," he said.

Political leaders calls this 'Congress agenda' and claim that multilingualism enhances cognitive flexibility, problem-solving and academic performance.

'Anti-Hindi agenda'

Arun Shahapur, former BJP MLC, said, "A sudden reversal to bilingualism risks robbing Karnataka's youth of national and international advantages".

"This is clearly a political agenda of the Congress government to remove Hindi from the education system and not in the interest of the state, students or Kannada," Arun said.

Teachers teaching third language in schools are worried about losing jobs.

Shashidhara C M, state president of Karnataka State Hindi Teachers' Association, said, "There are over 25,000 teachers handling third languages in schools, including government ones. There is no clarity on ensuring job security. We have written to CM Siddaramaiah, School Education Minister Madhu Bangarappa and others, but there is no reply. Many private schools are already telling Hindi teachers that their services are not needed next year".

He said the two language-policy and mandating primary education in Kannada or mother tongue would cause a setback for Kannada.

"There are schools with other languages as medium of instruction, like Hindi, Urdu, Marathi, Tulu, Telugu and Tamil. What if a student wants to study in his or her mother tongue and chose English as second language?" he says.

'Kannada is safe'

But officials and experts who were part of the SEP panel say there will be no such legal hurdles and that the policy will not cause setback to Kannada.

V P Niranjanaradhya, development educationist and member of SEP commission, said, "On medium of education, we have clarity that from pre-primary to class 5, mother tongue will be taught, which includes Kannada and other languages. Secondly, it will not contradict the 2014 order of the Supreme Court, because there was no National Education Policy then. When there is a policy, the court cannot interpret it. Next is the two-language formula. We have gathered information from private schools and as per data, 99% of children studying even in CBSE and ICSE schools have Kannada as mother tongue. Even CBSE issued a circular mandating mother tongue as medium of instruction at the foundation level."

He said, "There is confusion about third language. It does not just mean Hindi. In SEP, we have given option for children of linguistic minority schools to learn third language, but there will no assessments for it. In the current system, Hindi is being imposed. As per SEP recommendations, after class 5, children can learn languages of their choice".

Govt formalises appointment of M A Saleem as state police chief

M A Saleem

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Karnataka government on Saturday issued a notification formalising the appointment of MA Saleem as the Director General and Inspector General of Police (DG&IGP) and the Head of Police Force (HoPF) of the Karnataka state police.

"M A Saleem, IPS (KN: 1993), Director General of Police, Criminal Investigation Department, Special Units & Economic Offences, Bengaluru is appointed as Director General and Inspector General of Police (Head of the Police Force), Karnataka, Bengaluru carrying the Apex Scale, Level-17 i.e. Rs 2,25,000/-(fixed) in the pay matrix of IPS (Pay) Rules, 2016 with immediate effect and until further orders in the existing vacancy," the notification said.

Saleem, in May this year, was placed under concurrent charge as the DG&IGP after Alok Mohan's term as HoPF ended. A 1993-batch officer, Saleem, during his three-decade-long career served in 26 different roles, most recently as the Director General of Police (DGP), Criminal Investigation Department (CID).

Saleem, born on June 25, 1966, hails from Chikkabanavara, a once-sleepy village in northern Bengaluru. He holds postgraduate degrees in commerce and police management.

Saleem is widely recognised for his contributions to solving Bengaluru's traffic issues, first as the Deputy Commissioner of Police (Traffic, East), then as the Additional Commissioner of Police (Traffic and Security) and later as the Special Commissioner of Police (Traffic).

3-language formula a threat to Kannada identity: Activists

'Imposing it on non-Hindi states a plot to erode linguistic diversity'

BENGALURU, DHNS

Activist Anand signs on a hoarding in support of the two-language policy in Bengaluru on Saturday. Lyricist Kaviraj and others look on. DH PHOTO/ASHWIN B M

Activists and intellectuals gathered at an exhibition held at the art gallery, Ravindra Kalakshetra on Saturday to promote Kannada learning and the two-language formula in education.

The event, organised by Mico Kannada Balaga, aimed to oppose the three-language policy and promote Kannada language and culture.

The speakers called upon the government to opt for the two-language formula, citing concerns that the current system was a threat to Kannada identity and imposed an unnecessary burden on students.

Anand, president of Banavasi Balaga, said, "Our country needs to recognise that the three-language formula in education is more than just about children's learning or language learning. It is part of politics, a one-nation, one-language ideology that seeks to erase diversity," he said.

Kaviraj, Kannada film lyricist, said, "We expect the state government to adopt the two-language policy by November this year and say goodbye to the three-language system. It should free students from the burden of compulsory third language learning at the high school level. There should be exams in only five subjects like northern states," he said. Kannada activist Chethan called the movement a fight for equality.

"This is not an anti-Hindi protest, but a struggle for linguistic justice. The imposition of a third language on non-Hindi speaking regions is a clear conspiracy to erode linguistic diversity. Rural students are the worst affected. We must resist this and ensure that our youth thrive in a fair educational environment. He said most of the competitive exams conducted by the central government do not have the option of writing them in Kannada, but Hindi is an option".

The National Education Policy 2020 has made it mandatory to learn three languages, which is a step towards imposing Hindi imperialism, he said.

"We need to resist this and promote Kannada learning," the speakers said.

Online Gaming Act: HC seeks Centre's response to plea

BENGALURU, DHNS

The high court on Saturday asked the union government to respond to the petition challenging the Promotion and Regulation of Online Gaming Act, 2025.

Justice B M Shyam Prasad adjourned the proceedings to September 8, asking the Centre to submit its response on the application filed by the petitioners seeking interim stay on the implementation of the legislation.

The court was hearing a petition filed by Head Digital Works Private Limited, Delhi, which operates the gaming application and website A23.

The petition challenged the new legislation, which received President's assent on August 22.

During the hearing, senior counsel Aryama Sundaram, appearing for the petitioners, said implementation of the new Act would affect lakhs of jobs as well as the industry.

"It is our concern that if this industry is closed overnight, there will be a serious backlash. Let them (Centre) file their reply and let them not notify the Act till matter is heard. Or give a week's notice before notifying the Act so that we can move the court," he said.

Solicitor General (SG) Tushar Mehta, appearing for the union government, said that it is for the first time when the court is examining the competence of parliament. He said the preamble of the new legislation says it (the issue) has extra territorial/trans border implications.

"Once the President has given assent, notifying is a constitutional process and courts may not interfere. Once Parliament passes legislation, assent of the President having been satisfied, merely because some individual is aggrieved, we need not inform him in advance that we will be notifying the law," the SG said.

When the court asked the union whether there is any possibility of an immediate notification, Tushar Mehta sought time to take instructions.

According to the petitioners, the legislation was enacted without prior consultation with stakeholders.

The petitioners cited the Apex Court's view that games of skill involving monetary risk are legitimate business activities protected under Article 19(1)(g) of the Constitution.

Pushing through key bills not a happy thing to do: Rijiju

BENGALURU, DHNS:

Union Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Kiren Rijiju said on Saturday that important bills were pushed through in the recently concluded monsoon session of Parliament, since the Opposition parties resorted to disruption of the proceedings.

The union minister was addressing the members of the Advocates Association of Bengaluru on 'Parliamentary System in the Largest Democracy in the World'.

The parliamentary affairs minister said disruption in Parliament was a loss to the representatives and not to the government in majority.

"The government will push through its bills whenever required, but the loss is to the members, particularly Opposition MPs," Rijiju said.

He said, "I was not happy to push through some important bills in such a rushed manner because every bill requires intensive discussions and deliberations. There was a Bill on online games. It is a regulation bill, setting rules and regulations. The whole young generation is getting trapped into online games. And, this is regulation for the future generation. How can such a bill be passed without a discussion? We thought it is too critical a bill to be pushed to the next session," he said.

The minister advised younger parliamentarians to resist any orders from their leaders to disrupt the House.

"I tell younger members of parliament that when your leader tells you to create disruption in the House, you should resist and say that you have come to parliament to speak for the people who voted for you. In the just concluded monsoon session, for the past weeks, I kept pleading with the Opposition parties to join the discussions. But, they are guided by the leaders' intentions and the House gets disrupted," he said.

In 3 yrs, state spent Rs 95,450 cr on 5 guarantees

HUBBALLI, DHNS: The government has spent Rs 95,450 crore on the implementation of its five guarantee schemes.

According to a written reply to a starred question in the Assembly, during the monsoon session, CM Siddaramaiah said till August 1, his government disbursed Rs 49,080 crore towards Gruha Lakshmi scheme, Rs 21,213 crore towards Gruha Jyothi, Rs 14,655 crore for Anna Bhagya scheme, Rs 9,982 crore for Shakthi scheme and Rs 520 crore towards Yuva Nidhi.

Responding to a question by Harihar MLA B P Harish, the CM said excluding Shakthi scheme, 7.31 crore beneficiaries benefited from the other four schemes.

Over 1.23 crore women heads of the family have been receiving Rs 2,000 a month under Gruha Lakshmi scheme, while 1.61 crore households are benefiting from free electricity scheme. There are 4.43 crore Annabhagya scheme beneficiaries. The Yuva Nidhi scheme, which provides Rs 3,000 per month to undergraduates and Rs 1,500 to diploma holders, is benefiting 2.41 lakh unemployed youths.

Under Shakthi scheme, the four road transport corporations have issued over 500 crore tickets.

Dharmasthala case: Complainant-witness brought to Bengaluru for mahazar

He is facing perjury charges, currently under SIT custody

BENGALURU/MANGALURU, DHNS

The Special Investigation Team (SIT) on Saturday brought the complainant-witness in the alleged Dharamsthala mass burials case to Bengaluru for mahazar proceedings, top sources in the know told *DH*.

The complainant-witness, who is still under witness protection, was recently arrested by the SIT on charges of perjury. He is currently under their custody.

According to sources, SIT officials, along with the complainant-witness, were at the rented house of Jayanath T, another person who came forward later as a witness, in the Peenya area on the outskirts of Bengaluru. Scene of Crime (SOCO) officials and forensic investigators also accompanied the SIT.

The SIT sources, however, refused to confirm what the probe team was focusing on and whether any evidence was recovered, as "it would hamper the probe". The team will continue further investigation after wrapping up mahazar procedures, sources said.

Meanwhile, in a telephonic conversation with a Kannada TV news channel, Jayanth alleged that the complainant-witness had stayed at his home in Peenya for two or three days four months ago.

"I gave him a place to stay. I accompanied him to Delhi, and he took the skull with him. Sujatha Bhat and Girish Mattannavar were also with us. My family has fed him. I helped him meet his lawyer in an autorickshaw a few times. It was my fault that I was with him," Jayanth said.

The SIT sources told *DH* in Mangaluru that the interrogation of Sujatha Bhat has continued for the fifth day. There is currently no clarity on when the inquiry will conclude. The source clarified that if the investigation finds Sujatha guilty of misleading law enforcing agencies or committing offence, the SIT will submit its detailed report to the court. It will then be up to the court to decide, sources said.

The SIT summoned the gram panchayat officials as part of the investigation.

The Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) report on the skull submitted by the complainant-witness has not yet reached the probe team.

Baby birth in school: Probe by retd judge

SHAHPUR (YADGIR DISTRICT), DHNS: A retired judge has been appointed as the investigation officer in the case of a class 9 girl giving birth to a baby at a residential school in Shahpur, executive director of Karnataka Residential Educational Institutions Society Kantharaju P S has said.

The deputy director of social welfare department is the nodal officer. The probe officer will submit report in a month. The main suspect has been arrested.

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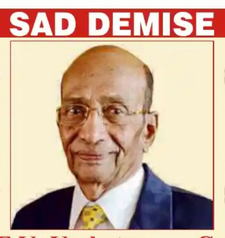

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PERSONAL

Change of Name

I, B.N. PRIYA, R/a #.2220, 24th A Cross, 4th Main, K.R. Road, Banashankari 2nd stage, Bangalore -560070 Have Changed My Name From B.N. PRIYA To PRIYA DEEPAK vide Affidavit Dated 30/08/2025 before Notary Mohammed Hussain .K Bangalore.

I, PALLAVI CHETHAN D/o Virupakshiah B. C. Residing at R10, Resonance, Good Earth Malhar Doddabele Road, Kambipura, Kumbalagoodu Bangalore 560060. Declare that I have Changed my Name from PALLAVI CHETHAN (Old Name) to PALLAVI VIRUPAKSH CHETHAN Vide affidavit dated 29/08/2025 Sworn before Notary K. S. Bammappanavar Bengaluru. Henceforth I shall be known as PALLAVI VIRUPAKSH CHETHAN in all my Future documents

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **NIHARIKA CHIKKANAYAKANAHALLI YOGEESHA**, Holder of Passport X4811107, do hereby change my name to Niharika (as given name), Yogeesha (as Surname), for all purposes. I will henceforth be known in the name Niharika Yogeesha, and I also undertake to carry out this name change in all my documents.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **TOMCY JOSEPH,** resident of Flat No. 104, VBC Paradise, Neelasandra Main Road, Behind Embassy Golf Park, Challaghatta, Bengaluru - 560037, have changed my name to **TOMCY THOMAS** vide affidavit dated 22-08-2025 before notary Njagunaradhya T C, Bengaluru. Henceforth I shall be called as **TOMCY THOMAS** only.

Change of Name
I, **Dalal Nishant Kiritkumar,** S/o Dalal Kiritkumar, R/at C/1205, MLR Pearl, Gopalkrishna Nagar, Maruthi Layout, Kadugodi, Bangalore-560067, have changed my minor daughter name from **Rishwa to Rishwa Nishant Dalal,** vide affidavit dt: 30.08.2025 Notary Rajanna S.M, B.lore.

Lost

LOST
I, Hemanth gowda TS, S/o Sadananda Murthy have lost my 2nd PUC Transfer certificate Roll no-943089 / 2023 2nd PUC TC State. Finders please contact - **72592 35243**

PUBLIC NOTICE

SALE OF PROPERTY IN CHIKMAGALUR

Notice is hereby given to public at large that the undersigned Advocates are investigating the title of the Schedule Property, owned and possessed by **Mr HarishKumar MG, Mr Gangadhar Sudhir Vernekar, Mr Gangadhar Raghavendra Vernekar And Mr Kosa Prasanna Kumar** (hereinafter known as Owners).

The Owners have represented that they are the absolute Owners of the Schedule Properties, having unrestricted rights of alienation over the same and that the Schedule Properties are free from all encumbrances, mortgages, charges, court cases, attachments, lien, litigation and/or any family dispute and/or third party rights/claims of any nature whatsoever.

Public is notified that if any person/s, entity, company, firm or institution has or asserts any rights, title or interest by way of sale, lease, license, tenancy, mortgage, charge, lien, easement, objection, agency, license, gift, family arrangement / settlement, allotment, pending litigation, claim, demand or of whatsoever nature in or upon the Schedule Properties, the same may be brought to the notice of the undersigned in writing together with all details and documents in support of such claim by 14.8.2025 from the date of this Notice, failing which it shall be deemed that the Owner has a clear and marketable title to the Schedule Property

SCHEDULE PROPERTIES

All that piece and parcel of immovable properties described herein below are situated in Joladalu VILLAGE, Vastare Hobli, CHIKAMAGALURU TALUK, CHIKAMAGALURU DISTRICT, KARNATAKA STATE, measuring 15 acres and 1 gunta.

Survey Number	Acres	Guntas
1/1A	4	39
1/1B	3	29
3/2		30
60	1	25
68		4
70	3	17
75		17
Total	11	161
Total	**15**	**1**

Advocate : Meiyappan Mohan
Email: meiyappanmohan.legal@gmail.com
Mobile: +91-9733135027 (Shyam)
+ 91- 9994504095 (Meiyappan)

Place: Chennai
Date: 28.08.2025

FIR against PDO for WhatsApp status insulting Siddaramaiah

KALABURAGI, DHNS: A Panchayat Development Officer (PDO) has landed in trouble after he used a morphed photo of CM Siddaramaiah – an image of the CM donning a skull cap captioned 'Siddaramullah Khan' – as his WhatsApp status. An FIR was filed against Praveen Kumar, PDO of Suntanur GP in Aland, following a complaint. The Kalaburagi ZP CEO Bahnwar Singh Meena has suspended Kumar.

'Pak sought ceasefire after IAF fired fewer than 50 weapons'

IAF, from Page 1

"There were targets which were not even taken out during the 1971 war. That is the kind of extent and damage to capability that we had caused to them," he said, reiterating that the IAF restricted its strikes to military targets.

In the past, officials had pointed out that India's air operations targeted nine Pakistani military sites, including critical airfields like Sargodha, Rahimyar Khan, Chaklala and Jacocobad.

Earlier this month, Chief of the Air Staff Air Chief Marshal A P Singh said IAF shot down five Pakistani combat jets and one large intelligence gathering aircraft during the air raid.

In his address at the conclave, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said last week's successful trial of an integrated air defence system by the DRDO was the first step in the Sudarshan Chakra mission.

Singh said the new weapon would provide complete aerial protection to critical locations across the country within the next decade, using both defensive and offensive technologies. DRDO's Integrated Air Defence Weapon System combines three weapons: a quick reaction surface to air missiles (QRSAM), advanced very short range air defence system (VSHORADS) missiles and a high-power laser-based directed energy weapon (DEW) for killing the drones.

A more advanced version of the missile shield, with three long range interceptor ballistic missiles, that can hit targets at a distance of 150 km, 250 km and 350 km is under development and first trial is expected next year.

Hikes are the real Cong guarantees, says BJP

BENGALURU, DHNS: The BJP on Saturday attacked the Siddaramaiah administration for hiking registration fee, which it said would hit home buyers and the real estate sector.

"After hiking prices of water, milk, power, petrol, diesel, bus fare, metro fare, property tax, stamp duty and every essential service, now they have targeted home buyers and the real estate sector by doubling registration fees," Leader of the Opposition R Ashoka said after registration fee was hiked from 1% to 2%.

The Congress government's "so-called Karnataka Model" would mean "looting Kannadigas at every step", Ashoka said. "This is the real Guarantee of Congress – looting Kannadigas Guarantee! This is the real Karnataka Model – tax, squeeze, exploit!" Ashoka said.

BJP state president BY Vijayendra said the Congress government was suffering bankruptcy due to its inability to improve the state's finances. Vijayendra pointed out that stamp duty rates were "excessively" hiked earlier. "Now, quite literally the government is indulging in registration loot. Karnataka hasn't seen such an anti-people government," he said.

Vijayendra said that the government is hiking various levies "after failing to keep false promises", adding that the registration fee hike must be withdrawn.

State sees small dip in school enrolment in 2024-25 academic yr

Admissions more at pvt schools than govt institutions

RASHMI BELUR
BENGALURU, DHNS

Enrolment registered a drop from pre-primary classes all the way to class 12 – in Karnataka for the 2024-25 academic year, according to data sourced from the Unified District Information System for Education (UDISE+) that was recently published by the Union government.

Overall enrolment for the 2024-25 academic year in Karnataka stood at 1,17,80,251 against 1,19,26,303 in 2023-24, a 1.3% drop. Meanwhile, enrolment at private-unaided schools was markedly higher – 56,63,887 – than at state-run schools, which cumulatively took in 47,34,360 students. Many government schools that registered an uptick in admissions during the pandemic, and for a year after, are beginning to lose students to private institutions.

During the pandemic, children, even those enrolled at prestigious private schools transferred to government schools. In 2021-22, as many as 1,20,92,381 students enrolled in schools in classes from pre-primary to class 12; this was higher compared to 2020-21, when 1,18,56,736 students were admitted to all classes. In 2021-22, 54,45,989 students were admitted to government schools, while private-unaided schools lost around 1.64 lakh students compared to the previous year.

Although several state-run schools have switched to English as the medium of instruction, it has not had the desired effect on enrolment. DH FILE PHOTO

Over the years

School	Enrolment for 2024-25	Enrolment for 2023-25
Government	**47,34,360**	49,85,661
Private-Unaided	**56,63,887**	54,80,677
Private-Aided	**13,81,517**	14,59,389

Although several state-run schools have switched to English as the medium of instruction, it has not had the desired effect on enrolment. Experts attributed their failure to drive enrolment to the government's failure to fill vacant teaching positions for the past few years. "Admissions at government schools even for class one are lower than those for private institutions. Data shows that admissions at government schools are lagging private ones by 30%. Teachers and infrastructure are the key factors to sustain high enrolment," said academic consultant Hemalatha Girish.

An official in the Department of School Education and Literacy pointed out that the decline in enrolment was not too high. "The decline is largely the result of dropouts in the higher-secondary level," said the official.

Bellad slams govt over pvt event at Vidhana Soudha banquet hall

DHARWAD, DHNS: Deputy Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Assembly Arvind Bellad has slammed the state government for its decision to allow private organisations to hold programmes in the banquet hall of Vidhana Soudha.

Speaking to reporters here on Saturday, Bellad said that the banquet hall of Vidhana Soudha has a certain dignity and prestige. Instead of safeguarding it, the state government is damaging its reputation. The decision of the government to allow private organisations to hold programmes in the banquet hall should be strongly opposed, he said.

Arvind Bellad

He stated that permission had been given to the Bangalore Lawyers' Association and Ravivarma Kumar Associates to organise a felicitation programme marking 50 years of advocacy of former Advocate General Prof Ravivarma Kumar in the banquet hall. He criticised this decision, saying that the hall is meant only for government functions, and granting permission to private entities will undermine its dignity.

He alleged that the government might have succumbed to some pressure in allowing this, and warned that this could set a precedent. In the future, ministers, senior government officials, and wealthy individuals may also demand the banquet hall for private events such as birthdays and wedding anniversaries of their family members. This situation, he said, would arise solely because of the Siddaramaiah government's decision. He urged the government not to yield to any pressure and to strictly reserve the banquet hall only for government functions.

Teacher arrested on charges of raping Class 9 student

HUMNABAD (BIDAR DISTRICT), DHNS: A teacher of an aided school was arrested, under provisions of Posco Act, on charges of sexually assaulting a Class 9 student in the taluk.

According to the police, the suspect had raped the girl several times and threatened her with dire consequences if she disclosed it to anyone. Following the incident, the victim refused to go to school. Upon enquiry, she revealed harrowing details of her ordeal.

The parents complained to the school management and the headmaster demanding action against the teacher in question. When no action was taken, the survivor's father lodged a complaint with the Humnabad police. Based on the complaint, the Humnabad police arrested the teacher.

KEA announces results for second round of counselling

Results for medical and dental courses yet to be declared

BENGALURU, DHNS

The Karnataka Examinations' Authority (KEA) has finally announced the results of its second round of counselling for professional courses, including engineering programmes. KEA has directed students to report to the colleges where they have been allotted seats by September 3.

Meanwhile, results of the second round of counselling for medical and dental programmes will be announced only once the Medical Counselling Committee has declared the results. "Until the committee declares its results, students allotted seats to medical and dental courses will not be allowed to exercise Choice Options," noted KEA Executive Director H Prasanna in a press statement.

Since the second round of the seat allotment process for medical courses has been delayed at the national level, KEA has decided to go ahead with admissions for UGCET candidates. In fact, the KEA has come up with four types of Choice Options to help the candidates. Students opting for Choice 1 or Choice 2 type of seats are mandated to pay the prescribed fee by September 2, besides reporting to their respective colleges by September 3. In view of the paucity of time, colleges have been instructed to stay open on Sundays and public holidays.

Candidates failing to make a selection will be eliminated from the process at this round, and will not be permitted to participate again. KEA has asked students to make, and confirm their choice by selecting one of the four options.

What are the options?

- **Choice One:** Candidates must pay the fee, and join the college in which they have been allotted a seat
- **Choice Two:** Candidates must pay the fee but have the option to change the college if they get an upgrade
- **Choice Three:** Candidates must pay a deposit of Rs 10,000 as a precautionary measure*
- **Choice Four**: Candidates must leave the CET counselling process
- Not applicable for BSc (Nursing), BPO, BPT and allied health science programmes

Medical seats

Once the Medical Counselling Committee announces its results, candidates who have secured a seat in a Karnataka college who also obtain a seat in the All-India counselling process will be permitted to exit. In such a scenario, the vacated seats will be made available in the counselling process in the same round. "This will give candidates a chance to secure a better seat than the one they have been allotted," said Prasanna.

CRAMMED WITH COMMUTERS

Vehicles move through a traffic jam as construction work is underway on one side of the elevated road at Hosakerehalli in Bengaluru on Saturday. PTI PHOTO

Public hearing for Sharavathy project on September 16, 18

BENGALURU, DHNS: The public hearing for the Sharavathy pumped storage project in Shivamogga district will be held on September 16, two days before the hearing scheduled in Uttara Kannada district.

The 2,000 MW project has been proposed by Karnataka Power Corporation Limited (KPCL) in the Sharavathy Lion-Tailed Macaque Sanctuary. The project is expected to result in the felling of about 15,000 trees.

The Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB), the nodal agency to conduct the hearing, has issued a public notice saying the hearing will be held at KPCL Officials' Recreation Club, Kargal Post, Sagar taluk, at 11 am.

In Uttara Kannada district, the hearing will be on September 18 at Gutti Kannika Parameshwari Nagaradevi Kalyana Mantapa, Uppinagoli, Honnavar taluk. Activists said crucial details about the project remain unclear.

Recommendations to explore alternatives to save over 12,000 trees appear to have been set aside in the rush to push through the hearing.

Use tech in maintaining law & order: Governor

BENGALURU, DHNS

Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot on Saturday said that the state police was the leading police force in the country.

He was addressing a gathering of police officers and personnel at the Raj Bhavan, where a ceremony was held to present the President's Distinguished Service Medal, President's Commendable Service Medal and the Union Home Minister's Medal to the winners.

"This ceremony is a mark of respect for the police and reflects the deep faith and gratitude society holds towards its guardians. The medals recognise officers and personnel who have demonstrated indomitable courage, exemplary service spirit and outstanding efficiency in ensuring peace and security," he said.

He also called for enhanced use of technology in maintaining law and order, especially in tackling new-age crimes such as cybercrime. Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, who was part of the ceremony, said the state police should take cases related to caste-based discrimination very seriously.

"Directorate of Civil Rights Enforcement (DCRE) police stations have been set up in every district. During a recent review meeting, I observed that the functioning and the progress of these stations weren't satisfactory. This should be taken seriously, and the government's objective of providing safety to the weaker sections should be achieved. The conviction rate for cases of atrocities against SC/STs is very low compared to other states, and the police should pay attention to this," he said.

He emphasised that many crimes can be prevented if preventive measures are taken.

The awardees included ADGP (Law and Order) R Hitendra, ADGP K V Sharath Chandra, Bengaluru city police commissioner Seemant Kumar Singh, ADGP S Murugan and IGP B R Ravikante Gowda.

Home Minister G Parameshwara underscored the need to curb cybercrimes.

"The state police is being modernised, while there are challenges. Cyber crimes are increasing. If not curbed, people will suffer losses of crores of rupees. That is why a cyber police station was established in the state for the first time in the country. Today, there are more than 45 police stations to tackle cybercrimes."

S Nagesh, an inspector from Mysuru, celebrates with his children during the ceremony to present President's police medals at the Raj Bhavan in Bengaluru on Saturday. DH PHOTO/RANJU P

Justice Nagamohan Das panel...

Panel report, from Page 1

The commission has also suggested a few systemic reforms and procedural changes to prevent irregularities and corruption in the future. Maintaining the road history record was among the many suggestions by the commission.

The sources said the commission opined that maintenance of road history improves transparency, helps fix responsibility, prevents officials from taking up unwanted works and prevents duplication of works.

In August, 2023, based on the complaints and a letter by Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar, the government set up four special investigation teams headed by IAS officers to look into alleged irregularities in works related to road infrastructure, lakes, stormwater drains and solid waste management

However, the move was questioned in the high court and subsequently, in December, 2023, the teams were dissolved. Later the investigation was handed over to Justice Nagamohan Das Commission.

Real estate growth fuels forgery cases at forensic labs

FSL, from Page 1

Owing to the increase in cases, pendency over the years had shot up to over 1,000 and the FSLs were taking around a year to submit reports. In the last few years, to attend to the increasing caseload, the labs have increased their staff strength. This has brought down the turnaround time significantly, officials said.

"Now, we give out the reports in just one month. When a case is flagged as important, we expedite the process to submit the report in less than a month," Divya added.

At present, the FSL has only 99 pending cases.

Indian Pitta breeding recorded in Western Ghats

PAVAN KUMAR H
HUBBALLI, DHNS

A team of amateur birders from Hubballi has recorded the breeding of Indian pitta, a winter migratory bird to South India, for the first time in the foothills of Western Ghats this July.

The bird, known for its nine vibrant colours in its plumage and a favourite among wildlife photographers, is known to breed at the foothills of Himalayas or central India. The team of Dinesh Kumar, Krishna Devangmath, Nikhil and Suleiman recorded a pair of Pitta (Pitta brachyura) building a nest in Kalkeri forest on the outskirts of Dharwad.

Indian Pitta. PHOTO: DINESH KUMAR

On eBird, a global online bird database, this is the first photographic record of the bird in the state.

"In July, when our team was in Kalkeri forests, we saw a pitta preparing its nest. During next visits, we even saw three chicks. By mid-August the nest was empty as the chick flew away," he said.

It was earlier believed that all visiting birds would return to central or northern India after winter.

"Indian pitta is a regular in Goa and has been known to breed in Western Ghats of Karnataka bordering Goa (forests of Belagavi). But this is for the first time that we have a photographic record of pitta breeding in state's Western Ghats," says Ashwin Viswanathan, a regional eBird reviewer.

◆ WEATHER ◆

Overview: Rainfall occurred at few places over North Interior and at most places over Coastal Karnataka and South Interior Karnataka

Forecast Aug 31: Rainfall to occur at many places over the state.

INTERIOR NORTH

Stations	Max	Min	Rain
Belagavi	24.4	20.4	12.4
Bidar	27	21	1.2
Vijayapura	29	21.1	00
Dharwad	26	20	3.8
Haveri	24.6	20.8	03
Kalaburagi	30	21.2	10.5
Raichur	31	21.6	00
COASTAL			
Honnavar	26.3	22.9	59.9
Karwar	27.2	24.6	39.6
Shirali	NA	NA	NA
Mangaluru	26.4	23.3	54.9

INTERIOR SOUTH

Stations	Max	Min	Rain
Agumbe	NA	NA	69
Bengaluru	28.1	20.5	00
Ballari	NA	NA	NA
Chamarajanagar	29.1	19.9	42.5
Chikkamagaluru	NA	NA	NA
Chitradurga	27.5	21.2	4.2
Davangere	26.5	20	00
Hassan	26.4	20.5	1.5
Mysuru	28	20	00
Madikeri	NA	NA	NA
Kolar	29.1	20.9	00

OTHER STATIONS

New Delhi	30.2	23.8	64
Kolkata	32.8	26.2	10
Mumbai	29.8	24	87
Chennai	36.1	27.5	00
Pune	26.8	21.7	2.2
Hyderabad	29.5	22	06
Th'puram	30.8	24.2	06

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India backs all efforts to end Ukraine conflict: PM

Zelenskyy urges Modi to signal Russia for ceasefire

TIANJIN (CHINA), PTI

India supports all efforts for peaceful settlement of the Ukraine conflict, Prime Minister Narendra Modi told Ukranian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy during a phone conversation on Saturday.

Modi is scheduled to hold wide-ranging talks with Putin on Monday on the sidelines of a summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) in this Chinese city. The Ukraine conflict is expected to be one of the focus areas of the talks.

Zelenskyy dialled Modi and conveyed his readiness for a meeting with the top leadership of Russia and that the end of the war must begin with an immediate ceasefire.

In a social media post, the Ukrainian president said India is ready to make the necessary efforts and to deliver the appropriate signal to Russia.

Zelenskyy also briefed Modi on his August 18 meeting with US President Donald Trump in the White House that took place three days after Trump held a summit with Putin in Alaska.

"Thank President Zelenskyy for his phone call today. We exchanged views on the ongoing conflict, its humanitarian aspect, and efforts to restore peace and stability. India extends full support to all efforts in this direction," Modi said on 'X'.

The prime minister landed in Tianjin this evening to attend the two-day SCO summit beginning Sunday.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy. PTI FILE

An Indian readout said Modi reaffirmed India's "steadfast and consistent position" for a peaceful settlement of the Ukraine conflict.

'Signal to Russia'

In a lengthy post on social media, Zelenskyy said he informed Modi about the talks with President Trump, adding India is ready to make the necessary efforts and to deliver the appropriate signal to Russia and other leaders during the meetings on the sidelines of the SCO summit.

"It was a productive and important conversation, a shared vision among partners on how to achieve real peace. Ukraine reaffirmed its readiness for a meeting with the head of Russia," he said.

"Almost two weeks have passed, and during this time, when Russia should have been preparing for diplomacy, Moscow has given no positive signal – only carried out cynical strikes on civilian targets and killed dozens of our people," Zelenskyy said.

AN EXPLAINER

India-China trade relations; deficit widens to $99.2 bn

Pharma, electronics and energy sectors see overwhelming Chinese dominance

NEW DELHI, PTI

The bilateral trade between India and China has been growing at a healthy rate, but the trade gap remains sharply tilted in Beijing's favour.

India has time and again flagged its concern over the ballooning trade deficit and the non-trade barriers faced by Indian goods in the Chinese market.

On August 29, Prime Minister Narendra Modi emphasised the need for India and China to collaborate in stabilising the global economic order, expressing India's readiness to advance bilateral ties based on mutual respect, interests, and sensitivity.

Q&A on trade-related issues between India and China:

What is the current state of bilateral trade between India and China?

From April-July 2025-26, India's exports to China grew by 19.97% to $5.75 billion, while imports rose by 13.06% to $40.65 billion. In 2024-25, India's exports were $14.25 billion, and imports reached $113.5 billion. The trade deficit (difference between imports and exports) increased from $1.1 billion in 2003-04 to $ 99.2 billion in 2024-25. In 2023-24, the gap was $85.1 billion, with China accounting for 35% of India's total trade imbalance of $283 billion.

Why is the deficit with China a concern?

The deficit is not only large but structural. China dominates India's imports across nearly all industrial sectors, including pharmaceuticals, electronics, construction materials, renewable energy, and consumer goods, according to think tank GTRI.

Which products does China dominate in India's imports?

According to GTRI, China supplies 97.7% of India's antibiotics (e.g., erythromycin), 96.8% of silicon wafers, 86% of flat panel displays, 82.7% of solar cells, and 75.2% of lithium-ion batteries.

Other products, such as laptops (80.5%), embroidery machinery (91.4%), and viscose yarn (98.9%), are also predominantly sourced from China.

What are the risks of increasing dependence on China?

GTRI founder Ajay Srivastava warns that China's dominance gives it potential leverage over India, using supply chains as a pressure tool during political tensions. India's exports to China have been declining, reducing its share of bilateral trade from 42.3% two decades ago to just 11.2% today. However, the commerce ministry notes that most imports from China are raw materials, intermediate products, and capital goods used for manufacturing finished goods, which are then exported. The ministry attributes India's reliance on China to gaps in domestic supply and demand.

What steps has India taken to reduce its import dependence?

• India has introduced production-linked incentive (PLI) schemes for over 14 sectors to promote domestic manufacturing. • Enforced stricter quality standards, testing, and certification to block substandard imports. • Urged businesses to diversify supply chains and reduce reliance on single sources.
• Regularly monitors import surges and takes corrective measures.
• The DGTR recommends trade remedies against unfair practices; anti-dumping duties imposed on several Chinese goods, including chemicals and engineering items.

What is the impact of the rising trade deficit?

• Strains forex reserves and increases dependence on external suppliers. • Cheaper imports hurt local manufacturers; currency depreciation raises import costs and fuels inflation. • Undermines domestic capacity building, slowing long-term industrial growth.

'Human GPS' terrorist guide killed in J&K's Gurez sector

ZULFIKAR MAJID
SRINAGAR, DHNS

TERROR DISRUPTED

- **Key infiltrator** – Active since the 1990s, Bagu Khan aided over 100 LoC infiltrations, earning the tag "human GPS" for his terrain knowledge.
- **Logistics backbone** – Linked to Hizbul Mujahideen, he guided infiltrators and planned routes for multiple terror outfits.
- **Major blow** – His killing under Operation Naushera Nar IV is seen as a big setback to infiltration networks.

Security forces achieved a major breakthrough last week by eliminating a veteran militant commander, notorious for facilitating infiltration along the Line of Control (LoC), in an encounter in north Kashmir's Gurez sector.

Two militants were killed in the clash near Naushera Naar under 'Operation Naushera Nar IV', officials said. Among them was Bagu Khan, widely known as the "human GPS" or "Samundar Chacha", a figure who had long been on the radar of security agencies.

According to officials, Khan had been active since the mid-1990s and was directly involved in over 100 infiltration attempts through the treacherous Gurez sector. His intimate knowledge of mountain passes, hidden trails, and uncharted routes earned him the nickname "human GPS."

"Many of these infiltration attempts succeeded because of his unmatched familiarity with the terrain," a senior officer said, adding that Khan's death marked a "major blow" to the logistical network of terror outfits operating from across the border.

Though primarily affiliated with the Hizbul Mujahideen, Khan frequently extended support to other militant organisations, guiding groups of armed men across the LoC and planning routes for their movement, he said. Khan was regarded as one of the oldest handlers of cross-border infiltration in north Kashmir, with his activities dating back to 1995.

The gunfight broke out last week when a group of heavily armed infiltrators tried to sneak into the valley via Naushera Naar. Alert troops intercepted the movement, triggering a brief but intense exchange of fire that left two militants, including Khan, dead.

Security agencies describe Khan's killing as "strategically significant." His role, they said, was less about fighting and more about enabling others to enter and operate inside Kashmir. The development comes at a time when infiltration attempts across the LoC have witnessed a rise, even as local militant recruitment within the Valley has declined in recent years.

Officials believe Pakistan-based groups continue to depend on seasoned guides like Khan to push fighters into Kashmir. With his death, security forces expect a temporary disruption in infiltration routes through Gurez, though fresh attempts are likely as groups look to re-establish networks ahead of the approaching winter when high passes get blocked by snow.

Dhankhar seeks pension from Raj Assembly as former MLA

JAIPUR/NEW DELHI, PTI: Former vice-president of India Jagdeep Dhankhar has applied for pension as a former legislator in Rajasthan, officials said.

Dhankhar, who represented the Kishangarh Assembly constituency as a Congress MLA from 1993 to 1998, received the pension as a former legislator until July 2019. It was discontinued after he was appointed the governor of West Bengal.

With his tenure as the vice-president ending following his resignation on July 21, Dhankhar has applied afresh to the Rajasthan Assembly secretariat seeking resumption of his pension as a former MLA, the officials said.

The secretariat has initiated the process, and the pension will be applicable from the date his resignation as the VP was accepted, they said.

The pension for a former MLA in Rajasthan starts at Rs 35,000 per month for a single term, and goes up with additional terms and age. Those above 70 receive a 20% hike.

Dhankhar, now 74, is entitled to a Rs 42,000 pension per month as a former legislator, the officials said.

Jagdeep Dhankhar

Meanwhile, officials said Dhankhar is entitled to three pensions — as a former vice-president, ex-MP, and former member of the Rajasthan Assembly.

While there are no pension benefits for Dhankhar as the ex-governor of West Bengal, he can avail one a secretarial staff for a monthly reimbursement of Rs 25,000 as a former governor.

As a one-term MP, he is entitled to Rs 45,000 per month as pension, besides other benefits. As the former vice-president, Dhankhar is entitled to a pension of nearly Rs 2 lakh per month, a Type-8 bungalow, one personal secretary, one additional personal secretary, one personal assistant, one physician, one nursing officer, and four personal attendants.

SC regularises MBBS admission on invalidated caste certificate

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The Supreme Court has approved the 2016 admission of a girl to an MBBS course under the Scheduled Tribe (ST) category since she finished her course and secured admission in a postgraduate course, albeit in the general category, even as her caste certificate got invalidated in 2022.

A bench, however, upheld the Bombay HC's order that noted "fraud" and suppression of material facts in the case. Finding that the matter presented a precarious situation, the bench said in an order on August 25, "Here is a case where the appellant, a meritorious student otherwise, has completed her MBBS course and is now pursuing her PG course. If we dismiss this appeal, that will be the end of her career."

It noted that the facts of the case were quite gross, but decided to grant the appellant, Chaitanya, an opportunity with only her career and her life in mind. "Having regard to the fact that the father has filed an undertaking that his daughter will never seek any benefit on the ground that she belongs to an ST," it said.

The court, however, said one thought still haunted its mind — that one eligible meritorious candidate from the ST category lost the opportunity to pursue the MBBS course. "For this, the father of the appellant must compensate in terms of money," it said, directing him to deposit Rs 5 lakh with the National Defence Fund.

Ready to seek support from BJP: Oppn VP candidate

RANCHI, PTI: Opposition vice president nominee B Sudershan Reddy on Saturday sought support for his candidature from all members of the Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha on merit, irrespective of party lines, asserting that he was ready to meet the BJP top brass if it allows so.

B Sudershan Reddy

Emphasising that he wanted this election to be one of the most decent and fair polls ever witnessed by India in recent years, Reddy also questioned the special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, contending that being in the majority does not empower anyone to do whatever they wish.

"I have sent letters to all members of the Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha to consider my candidature on merit, and I am ready to meet and seek support from the BJP's top brass," he told a press conference.

Criticising the SIR, Reddy wondered what the "intensive exclusion" was a part of the exercise.

"What is this SIR... It is a new trouble... There can be a special revision... Nobody disputes that electoral rolls should be updated and the names of those who are not amongst us should be struck out, but what is this intensive exclusion... Democracy doesn't mean simply votes; being in the majority does not give power to do anything," he said.

Reddy also alleged violations of provisions of the Constitution, which he said was like the 'Triveni Sangam', and that one should know its history, text and structure.

NO WAY OUT

Vehicles submerged in the floodwater after heavy rainfall, at Himmatnagar, in Sabarkantha district, Gujarat, on Saturday. PTI

19-year-old migrant worker from Odisha cracks NEET

BERHAMPUR (ODISHA), PTI: The dream of becoming a doctor came true for Odisha's 19-year-old student Subham Sabar, who has been working as a labourer in Bengaluru to support his family, as he cracked the NEET UG exams and secured admission to the MBBS course at a college here.

Subham, who hails from a poor family in Mudulidhiah village, was elated when he received a phone call from his teacher, Basudev Moharana, that he had cleared the entrance exams for getting admission to the MBBS course.

He ranked 18,212 in the scheduled tribe category and got admission to MKCG Medical College and Hospital. "Recently, while working at the construction site in Bengaluru, I got a call from my teacher who asked me to distribute sweets. I asked him about the reason. He informed me that I had cracked the NEET exams," Subham said.

HAL likely to deliver 2 Tejas Mark-1A jets in Sept: Def secy

NEW DELHI, PTI

Two Tejas Mark-1A fighter jets are likely to be delivered next month by the state-run aerospace major Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL), Defence Secretary R K Singh said on Saturday.

Singh also said that the government is likely to ink a fresh contract with HAL for procuring an additional batch of 97 Tejas jets after the delivery of the two aircraft.

The Indian Air Force had flagged concerns over delays in the delivery of the Tejas Mark 1A jets under a previous contract.

"Hopefully, the first two of those will be delivered with weapons integration by the end of September," Singh said.

The defence secretary said about 38 Tejas jets are already in service and another 80-odd are being manufactured.

In February 2021, the defence ministry sealed a Rs 48,000 crore deal with HAL for the procurement of 83 Tejas Mk-1A jets for the IAF.

FLYING HIGH

- HAL to deliver two Tejas Mk-1A jets by September-end after delays.
- Govt to finalise Rs 67,000 crore deal for 97 more jets after initial delivery.
- Tejas jets key to replacing MiG-21s and addressing IAF's squadron shortfall.

The delivery of the jets is facing delays primarily due to the US defence major GE Aerospace missing several deadlines for the supply of its aero engines to power the jets.

97 Tejas fighters

Last week, the government approved an additional batch of 97 Tejas fighters at a cost of around Rs 67,000 crore.

"I have made it clear to HAL that we will sign this contract only after HAL delivers two Tejas featuring a complete package," Singh said on the additional procurement.

He said HAL "will have an order book for four to five years".

"Hopefully, they (HAL) will be able to perfect this platform, integrate the radar and Indian weapons, so that it becomes a workhorse for us along with the Sukhoi," Singh said.

"There will still be a gap, and for that gap we will have to look at some other options," he said, hinting at the procurement of more platforms for the Indian Air Force.

The single-engine Mk-1A will be a replacement for the IAF's MiG-21 fighters.

The IAF is looking at inducting the warplanes as the number of its fighter squadrons has gone down to 31 from the officially sanctioned strength of 42.

Tejas is a single-engine multi-role fighter aircraft capable of operating in high-threat air environments.

It has been designed to undertake the air defence, maritime reconnaissance and strike roles.

AAI senior manager held for siphoning off Rs 232 crore: CBI

NEW DELHI, PTI: The CBI has arrested a senior manager of Airport Authority of India for allegedly siphoning off over Rs 232 crore of the public sector company's funds into his personal account for trading purposes, officials said on Saturday.

AAI senior manager (Finance & Accounts), Rahul Vijay, orchestrated the transfer through a complex trail of fictitious accounting entries in three years during his posting at Dehradun Airport

Vijay indulged in a systematic scheme of fraud and embezzlement of AAI funds by manipulation of official and electronic records, a CBI spokesperson said in a statement.

"During the investigation, it has emerged that in the period 2019-20 to 2022-23, the accused, while posted at Dehradun Airport, manipulated electronic records by creating duplicate and fictitious assets and inflating the values of certain assets, including by adding zeros to entries to evade routine detection," the spokesperson said.

In its preliminary analysis of bank transactions, the agency found that the funds so credited were thereafter transferred to "trading accounts" by the accused, thereby siphoning public money.

ENGINEERING MARVEL

A bridge too beloved: Locals fight to preserve Pamban's past

E T B SIVAPRIYAN
CHENNAI, DHNS

For about 108 years, the Cantilever Bridge across the Pamban coast connecting Rameswaram island with the Indian mainland not only ferried passengers but also served as a lifeline for the people living there. The bridge, built in 1914 during the British regime, survived a deadly cyclone in 1964 and decades of sea erosion.

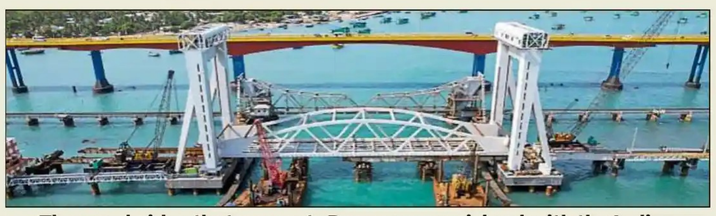
The Scherzer rolling and lift span in the middle of the old bridge, which opened to allow ships and vessels to pass through, was a tourist attraction, with people lining up along the road bridge built in 1988 to catch a glimpse.

The rolling and lift span will now be part of history, as a new vertical lift span bridge, India's first sea rail bridge, replaces the old structure.

The Rail Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL), which constructed the new structure at a cost of Rs 543 crore, has floated a tender for dismantling the rolling and lift span, while the Southern Railway will remove the remaining parts of the bridge due to safety concerns.

However, the move has caused disappointment among locals who demand that the dismantled structure be preserved and a museum be established in Pamban or Mandapam to display it.

The new bridge was opened in April by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, following which rail traffic between Mandapam and Rameswaram was restored. The services had been discontinued in December 2022 after cracks were found on the old bridge.



The new bridge that connects Rameswaram island with the Indian mainland was opened in April. PTI

"The Pamban rail bridge is an integral part of the lives of people in Rameswaram and adjoining areas. We grew up watching trains pass over the bridge and travelling on them. We want the structure to be preserved and showcased for the public," Sheik Salim, convenor of the A P J Abdul Kalam International Foundation, told *DH*.

Salim, who is also the grandnephew of Kalam, said the Indian Railways should consider setting up a new museum in Pamban or Mandapam to display the removed structure along with old engines and some trains that ran on the route. "We understand that the structure has become old and must be removed, but since it is part of Rameswaram's history, it should be preserved," Salim added.

Several people took to 'X' to urge the Centre to preserve and showcase the old bridge, calling it an engineering marvel that dates back over a century.

Before the road bridge was built, the cantilever structure served as only surface link between Rameswaram and the Indian mainland.

SANGH SYNERGY: The ideological mentor's ties with BJP and others come into focus

As RSS expands overseas, its influence on affiliates evolves

SUMIT PANDE
NEW DELHI, DHNS

RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat with Sarkaryavah Dattatreya Hosabale and others during the 'Vyakhyanmala' event, organised to mark the centenary year of RSS, in New Delhi. PTI

The Rashtriya Swayamsewak Sangh (RSS) — the ideological mentor of the BJP, the dominant force in the country — is aiming to go global from local as part of its ambitious centenary year plan, even as it grapples with challenges within, like the expansion of its affiliate forums that are loosely yet inseparable from the parent organisation.

In the three-part lecture series by Mohan Bhagwat in Delhi last week, the RSS chief underscored the intrinsic aspects of the sangh modus and its ideology moorings for "character-building" in its shakhas to bring about a transformation in the society in India, which, according to the RSS, is a "Hindu Rashtra" (Hindu nation).

Towards that end, Bhagwat exhorted his cadre to relentlessly reach out to every village and every household in the country. Quoting former RSS chief Rajju Bhaiyya, Bhagwat said the time had come for the RSS to address the world at large.

"If I had called you earlier and said all this, you wouldn't have heeded much. But today, things have changed. Society at large listens to us. They may or may not agree with us, but we are seen as a credible organisation", Bhagwat told over a thousand invitees, including representatives from over 40 missions.

Expanding overseas

The first overseas RSS shakha was organised by Indian expats in Kenya in 1948. Since then, the Sangh — through the Hindu Swayamsewak Sangh — has sought to expand its footprint abroad.

The thrust on overseas expansion could be due to multiple factors, including a conducive situation back home, with its political affiliate holding power at the Centre for over a decade now. The growing numbers and influence of the Indian diaspora abroad also provide perfect landing and launching pads to experiment beyond the frontiers.

And finally, in the globalised polity, it is difficult for a large organisation like the RSS to completely insulate itself from other nations' socio-economic and political developments.

Owing to its ideological links to the BJP, it can hardly evade international scrutiny.

For instance, the Bajrang Dal's alleged role in the recent arrest of Catholic nuns in Chhattisgarh's Durg has come up in the US.

The US State Department's reports on religious freedom, citing media and NGOs, have mentioned incidents of communal violence triggered by religious processions led by affiliated "Hindu nationalist groups". Managing international perception, thus, is critically important for the Sangh.

Domestically, the lure of power and the consequential lateral entries as the affiliates expand their base pose no less a challenge, especially for an organisation with centralised functioning.

Bhagwat, in the Delhi interaction, candidly admitted internal differences of opinion. The credit for the "good work the people do is entirely theirs", he said, though the RSS did have to share the discredit when things went awry. In this context, the most complex and convoluted was the RSS' relationship with the BJP.

The RSS influence

The BJP's ascension helped the RSS on two fronts. The Modi government has sought to deliver on key ideological issues of its mentor, like the Ram Temple, abrogation of Article 370, and the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) in some states. In return, the Sangh has given operational freedom to the BJP to run the country.

This is something even Bhagwat hinted at when he said the BJP knew how to run the country, but "we" (the RSS) knew how to run shakhas. "We don't decide for them," Bhgwat said.

The real message was, however, in the disclaimer he delivered after a pregnant pause: "We don't decide. Otherwise, wouldn't we have decided by now?" He was alluding to the stalemate over the appointment of the new BJP president after J P Nadda's term ended last year.

BJP patriarch L K Advani, in the 2005 national executive meeting in Chennai, triggered a debate on the RSS-BJP ties when he said: "Lately, an impression has gained ground that no political or organisational decision can be taken without the consent of the RSS functionaries. This perception, we hold, will do no good either to the party or to the RSS."

Even Nadda broached the subject in an interview in the run-up to the 2024 Lok Sabha polls.

In the past, the RSS stepped in with determined agility, whenever required, to settle internal and inter-organisational differences.

In 2017, at the national executive of the Vishwa Hindu Parishad, former VHP chief Pravin Togadia backed a candidate who outvoted the RSS nominee in the presence of the then RSS general secretary Suresh "Bhaiya Ji" Joshi.

The elections were, however, postponed, and the Sangh finally got a person of its choice to head the VHP.

But these are different times. As the RSS grows, some of its associate organisations may also have outgrown the relationship that bound them to the mothership.

Nitish likely to lead NDA in Bihar polls

AMRITA MADHUKALYA
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The ruling NDA is likely to contest the upcoming Bihar Assembly elections under Nitish Kumar's leadership.

The alliance is also hoping to keep its flock together, even as Chirag Pawan of the Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas) is seeking more seats. A key meeting of the alliance parties will take place soon to discuss seat sharing.

The BJP and the JDU both intend to keep 100 seats each, said sources. However, the cause for worry is Chirag Paswan, who is demanding 40 seats in the 243-seat assembly. The JDU is not keen on giving that many seats to Chirag, added sources.

BJP leaders said the JDU has advised that Chirag be given only 20 seats.

"He has time and again flexed before elections to bargain for a better deal," a senior leader from the BJP Bihar unit said.

The leader added that to pacify JDU, the BJP is willing to give it 105 seats in case it gives more than 20 seats to Chirag.

In a meeting chaired by BJP president JP Nadda, it was said that Chirag might sort out issues within his party to keep the coalition stable.

"He had intimated to the leadership that he needs to do this to keep his supporters and voters intact," a senior BJP leader said.

Apart from that, the Jitan Manjhi-led Hindustani Awam Morcha (Secular) and Upendra Kushwaha's Rashtriya Lok Morcha will also be part of the alliance.

Sources in the BJP also said the party has been facing heat due to the Voter Adhikar Yatra by Congress leader Rahul Gandhi. The party's workers in the state have said the Yatra might have an adverse effect on the ruling coalition's prospects.

About 2L pleas to remove names from Bihar voters' list

NEW DELHI, PTI: The Election Commission on Saturday said it has received as many as 1.98 lakh pleas from individuals for exclusion of names from the voters' list being prepared as part of the Special Intensive Revision of electoral rolls in Bihar.

On the other hand, nearly 30,000 pleas were received for inclusion of names, it said.

The draft electoral rolls were published on August 1 and will remain open for "claims and objections" by individuals and political parties till September 1.

The final electoral roll for Bihar, which is likely to go for polls in November, will be published on September 30.

Booth-level agents appointed by political parties have so far filed 25 claims for inclusion and 103 for exclusion from the draft list of Bihar voters.

According to the EC, 99.11% of the 7.24 crore electors of the state have so far submitted their documents for verification.

Time to drive out BJP, says Akhilesh

ABHAY KUMAR
PATNA

Samajwadi Party (SP) president and former Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Akhilesh Yadav on Saturday said the I.N.D.I.A will defeat the NAD in the Bihar assembly elections.

Akhilesh Yadav

"We drove them (the BJP) out of Awadh (UP) during the Lok Sabha elections. It is high time you drive them out of Magadh (Bihar) during the Assembly elections," said Akhilesh, who joined Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on the Voters' Adhikar Yatra at Saran in Bihar.

Flanked by Tejashwi Yadav, Akhilesh took a jibe at RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat, who recently said "Indians have shared the same DNA for 40,000 years."

"We have always maintained that our fight for social justice is 5,000 years old. But we recently came to know that it's 40,000 years old," said Akhilesh in an oblique reference to the RSS chief Bhagwat.

Akhilesh, who, besides Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin and Telangana CM Revanth Reddy, attended the Voters' Adhikar Yatra, assured the Mahagatbandhan leader Tejashwi Yadav of his support.

"It was Tejashwi, who, as Deputy CM, started giving employment to the jobless. His elevation as Bihar Chief Minister will generate jobs and put an end to migration," said Akhilesh.

"Who can forget that it was Lalu ji who stopped the BJP chariot-led by LK Advani and arrested him in 1990," said Akhilesh, without batting an eyelid, how this 1990 episode of check-mating the BJP had soured the relationship between the two regional chieftains, Lalu Prasad and Mulayam Singh Yadav.

Rahul and other Congress leaders thanked Akhilesh for his support. "All throughout my Yatra, I noticed how politically conscious the people of Bihar are. I am sure such agile people will not allow 'vote theft' just as it happened during the Maharashtra Assembly elections and ensure the BJP does not return to power," said Rahul.

STANDING FIRM

Delhi Minister Kailash Gahlot, Delhi BJP President Virendra Sachdeva and others climb a barricade as water cannons being used during a protest march to Congress headquarters over the objectionable comments against Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his mother, in New Delhi, on Saturday. PTI

TMC MLA sent to 14-day judicial custody in ED case

KOLKATA, PTI: A special Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) court here on Saturday remanded TMC MLA Jiban Krishna Saha, arrested by the Enforcement Directorate (ED), to judicial custody for 14 days.

Saha, who was arrested on August 25 by the federal agency on money laundering charges, was produced before the court at the end of his six-day ED remand.

The agency's lawyer, Bhaskar Prasad Banerjee, prayed before the special court judge for Saha's judicial custody. The MLA did not make any bail prayer before the court. The legislator from the Burwan constituency in Murshidabad district was arrested by the federal probe agency after searches were conducted at his residence.

The raids also covered the premises of his associates and an alleged middleman named Prasanna Kumar Roy.

Bengal border dists see rush for birth documents amid SIR fears

MALDA/MURSHIDABAD (WB), PTI: Residents belonging to minority communities in two border districts of West Bengal, Malda and Murshidabad, have been flocking to municipal offices, gram panchayats, and local courts to collect documents having proof of their birthplaces and dates, as the fear of a Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls looms large.

In Malda, middlemen are charging Rs 1,900 to help residents prepare affidavits and submit them online for birth certificates.

They are taking groups of 50-80 people to local courts, and cyber cafés are making money from the increased demand for both soft and hard copies of birth certificates, a local advocate said.

"The majority of those seeking these documents are from the minority community, and this trend has intensified in the last 15-20 days," the advocate added.

A district official said people are coming from 146 gram panchayat areas of Malda, including Ratua, Kaliachak, and Sujapur, as well as other minority-dominated regions in the district.

"Affidavits issued by a notary public are no longer sufficient. Now, they must be verified by the municipality chairman, panchayat pradhan, and judicial magistrate. People are eager to get this done quickly, despite their daily tasks. Addressing the SIR issue and ensuring their cases are foolproof has become a top priority for them," a panchayat official said.

However, Sulekha Choudhury, the former gram panchayat pradhan of Pardeonapur Sobhapur, said that there isn't as much stress or pressure in her area.

In Murshidabad district's Jalangi, Raninagar, Domkal, Beldanga, Hariharpara, Suti, Samsherganj, and Farakka, the rush to "correct and procure" birth certificates has also intensified, a district official said.

The Election Commission (EC) sent a letter to the chief secretary and district authorities on August 27 regarding the revision of electoral rolls. Assembly elections in the state are scheduled to be held next year.

Revanth urges all parties to join the fight against 'vote theft'

HYDERABAD, DHNS: Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy called upon all like-minded political forces to join the fight against vote theft (Vote Chori) and safeguard the democratic spirit of the country.

Revanth also warned that the rulers at the centre were exploiting the Election Commission (EC) to rule the country for a long time.

Speaking at the memorial meeting of CPI leader Suravaram Prathap Reddy on Saturday, the CM said, "Those in power at the centre are trying to consolidate their power by making use of the EC services as per their political needs. The centre was removing the voters who are against them, which is a big threat to the country's Parliamentary democracy."

Revanth appealed to the parties to analyse the new trend of the removal of votes, as well as generating 1 crore votes in just 4 months. He also cautioned that Centre was conspiring to change the entire Constitution.

'Double engine' govt won't allow 'demography change': Yogi

LUCKNOW, DHNS: Chief Minister Adityanath said that there was now a double-engine government in Uttar Pradesh, which would not allow "demography change" anywhere, apparently referring to the alleged change in the demography of the communally-sensitive Sambhal town.

"Jo koi aisa karne ki koshish karega, use khud jile se aur pradesh se palayan karne ke liye majboor hona padega (Those who try to change the demography will be forced to leave the district and the state)," he said at a function in Pratapgarh.

Adityanath alleged that Hindus were "targeted" during the Congress and the Samajwadi Party (SP)'s rule.

"Hindus were persecuted and riots were deliberately engineered to force Hindus to leave the place, changing the demography," he alleged.

Telangana to go ahead with 42% BC quota in local body polls

S N V SUDHIR
HYDERABAD, DHNS

The Telangana government will introduce the Panchayat Raj (Amendment) Bill, 2025, during the monsoon sessions of the Legislative Assembly that began on Saturday.

The cabinet has decided to conduct the local body polls with 42% reservations for BCs.

The government is seeking to amend Section 285A of the Telangana Panchayat Raj Act, 2018, which currently maintains a 50% ceiling on vertical reservations for Scheduled Castes (SCs), Scheduled Tribes (STs), and Backward Classes (BCs) in local self-governments.

The proposed amendment will pave the way for implementing reservations beyond the existing 50% cap, thus enabling the Revanth Reddy government to implement its proposal to provide 42% reservations to BCs in local bodies.

The amendment to Section 285A would allow the cap to be exceeded under exceptional circumstances, supported by empirical data on demographic and socioeconomic conditions, political backwardness, and inadequate representation.

"The cabinet decided to conduct the local body elections in the state, providing 42% reservations to the BCs. In this regard, we are introducing the Panchayat Raj Amendment Bill in the current assembly sessions to pave the way for providing reservations. This decision is based on the empirical data collected in the statewide survey and after consulting legal experts," said Transport Minister Ponnam Prabhakar.

The state cabinet also decided to nominate Prof Kodandaram and former cricketer Mohammad Azharuddin to the Legislative Council under the Governor's Quota. On August 13, the Supreme Court stayed the earlier appointments of Prof Kodandaram and journalist Amer Ali Khan to the Council.

CM scrambles for options as Maratha quota talks fail

MRITYUNJAY BOSE
MUMBAI, DHNS

The logjam between the Maratha community, led by Manoj Jarange-Patil, and the Maharashtra government continued for the second day as the first rounds of talks failed, even as Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on Saturday scrambled for options to combat the situation arising out of the Maratha-vs-OBC reservation issue.

"I started a hunger strike a day ago; if needed, I will shun water as well," Jarange-Patil told his supporters.

The ruling MahaYuti alliance, before the Lok Sabha and Assembly polls, gave a 10% quota to Marathas under the Maharashtra State Reservation for Socially and Educationally Backward Act.

However, Jarange-Patil has been demanding that Marathas be declared Kunbis — a sub-caste covered under the OBCs that has a 27% quota.

The BJP-led MahaYuti enjoys a mammoth majority in the legislature, but it will have to keep both the Marathas and the OBCs in good humour, especially with the Maharashtra mega civic polls just around the corner.

As a first step, the government deputed Justice Sandeep Shinde (retd), who heads the committee set up to expedite the process of granting reservation to the Marathas, to hold parleys with him.

However, Jarange-Patil said, "It is not Justice Shinde's job to issue a government resolution announcing the grant of reservation to Marathas."

Before Justice Shinde left for the talks, the 12-member Cabinet subcommittee headed by Water Resources Minister Radhakrishna Vikhe-Patil met to discuss the situation.

Jarange-Patil said the committee had studied gazettes related to the issue for 13 months, and now it was time for the panel to submit its report, paving the way for Marathas to obtain Kunbi status.

Supporters of Manoj Jarange Patil gather outside Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus to join the agitation on Saturday. PTI

Shah meets Fadnavis, Shinde

MUMBAI, DHNS: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Saturday informally met Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis and Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and discussed the situation in Maharashtra arising out of the Maratha reservations agitation in Mumbai and the OBC resistance counter-agitation.

The Maharashtra government wants to avoid a caste conflict in the state and is making all efforts to ensure that the situation does not get out of hand.

Mumbai-born Shah arrives in the metropolis every year during Ganeshotsav and offers prayers at the Lalbaugcha Raja along with his family members.

During the day, Maharashtra BJP president Ravindra Chavan and newly-appointed Mumbai BJP chief Ameet Satam, and state Cultural Affairs Minister Ashish Shelar met and accompanied Shah during the Ganesh darshan.

India launches first AI-powered translator for tribal languages

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The Union Ministry of Tribal Affairs will launch an AI-based translation and transcription platform, Adi Vaani, on Monday.

The platform has been designed with the help of IIT Delhi, IIIT Hyderabad, IIIT Naya Raipur, as well as BITS Pilani, and will cater to tribal languages, including Santhali, Mundari, Bhili, Gondi, Kui, and Garo.

The ministry touted the initiative as the country's first AI-powered translator for tribal languages. It has been developed under the banner of Janjatiya Gaurav Varsh, the year-long celebrations for the 150th anniversary of Birsa Munda.

"The project combines advanced AI technologies with community-driven approaches to protect, promote, and revitalise tribal languages and cultures across India," it said.

DÉTENTE DELUSION Modi arrives in Tianjin for SCO summit; to meet Xi today

India-China border settlement remains a mirage despite talks

ANIRBAN BHAUMIK

Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Chinese President Xi Jinping during their last meeting on the sidelines of the BRICS summit in Kazan, Russia. REUTERS FILE PHOTO

In April 2005, then-Prime Minister Manmohan Singh hosted Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao in New Delhi as the two nations signed the Political Parameters and Guiding Principles for the Settlement of the India-China Boundary Question. Two years earlier, in June 2003, Singh's predecessor Atal Bihari Vajpayee and Wen had agreed to appoint special representatives to negotiate a framework for a boundary settlement from the political perspective of overall bilateral relations.

Fast forward to 2017. Beijing's envoy to New Delhi, Luo Zhaohui, proposed an early harvest deal on the less contentious stretches of the boundary before moving on to settle the more difficult ones. New Delhi rejected the idea, pointing to the 2005 agreement which had stated that India and China "should, in the spirit of mutual respect and mutual understanding, make meaningful and mutually acceptable adjustments to their respective positions" to "arrive at a package settlement to the boundary question". Article III of the 2005 accord stressed: "The boundary settlement must be final, covering all sectors of the India-China boundary."

The decade that followed saw both confrontation and attempts at rapprochement. The Doklam Plateau stand-off in mid-2017 brought Indian and Chinese troops face-to-face for 73 days. A lull followed, highlighted by informal Modi–Xi summits in Wuhan in April 2018 and Mamallapuram in October 2019. The apparent warmth ended with the violent clash in Galwan Valley on 15 June 2020 and the prolonged military stand-off along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh from 2020 to 2024.

Against this backdrop, India's National Security Advisor Ajit Doval and Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi, the two special representatives for boundary talks, met in New Delhi on 19 August 2025. For the first time in years, they agreed to "explore early harvest in boundary delimitation in the India-China border areas". This suggested a softening of New Delhi's earlier rigid stance, even though the 2005 agreement had explicitly ruled out piecemeal resolution of the dispute.

The 2005 agreement had laid down a three-step path: adopt guiding principles, negotiate a framework for a final settlement involving give-and-take, and finally demarcate the boundary on the ground. Since then, however, the two sides have made little progress on the second step, leaving the process stalled for nearly two decades.

Beijing's 'early harvest' plan essentially seeks to replace the 1890 convention between China and Great Britain and formalise the boundary in the Sikkim sector. India resisted in the past, concerned that such a deal would restrict flexibility in negotiating the more difficult western, middle, and eastern sectors. It could also provide China leverage at the sensitive China-India-Bhutan trijunction. Accepting a limited agreement might expose the narrow Siliguri Corridor, or 'Chicken Neck', which links India's northeast with the mainland, to pressure or a potential incursion by the People's Liberation Army in a future conflict.

India also recalls that in 2012 both countries had agreed to resolve the trijunction issue only in consultation with Bhutan. If New Delhi strikes a bilateral deal with Beijing bypassing Thimphu, it could allow China to conclude its separate boundary talks with Bhutan on its own terms, gaining a stronger strategic position in the eastern Himalayas.

Wang's meetings with External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar and NSA Doval in New Delhi on 18–19 August were aimed at preparing for Prime Minister Modi's meeting with Xi Jinping in Tianjin on Sunday. This will be their second encounter since the 21 October 2024 agreement between the Indian Army and the PLA restored patrolling rights in Depsang and Demchok, formally ending the four-and-a-half-year-long stand-off along the LAC. The resumption of the annual Kailash Mansarovar pilgrimage after five years, the reopening of border trade and direct flights, and Beijing's decision to allow exports of fertiliser, rare earth minerals and tunnel boring machines to India have all been highlighted as confidence-building measures achieved over the past 10 months.

Despite these steps, progress on the ground remains limited. Since April–May 2020, both sides have maintained large troop deployments in depth areas along the LAC.

Talks have not yet addressed lifting the moratorium on patrolling in buffer zones created during disengagement in Galwan Valley, Pangong Tso's banks, Gogra Post and Hot Springs. The continued ambiguity over these zones remains a point of friction.

Beyond the boundary issue, India must also factor in China's approach toward Pakistan. Beijing extended support to Islamabad after the 22 April carnage in Jammu & Kashmir, during India's 'Operation Sindoor' against terrorist camps in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied areas, and through the 7–10 May military flare-up between the two neighbours. It has also avoided addressing India's concerns over the massive dam it is building on the lower Yarlung Tsangpo, known as the Brahmaputra in India.

At the same time, Beijing has tried to mediate between the Taliban regime in Kabul and Pakistan, and is seeking to extend the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor into Afghanistan. Since the CPEC runs through Indian territory under Pakistan's illegal occupation, this is viewed in New Delhi with alarm. China's growing influence across South Asia and beyond is another factor to be weighed before moving toward a full rapprochement.

President Donald Trump's tariff tirade is being cited to justify India's move for a rapprochement with China. But Trump was not even re-elected as US President when Modi met Xi in Kazan, Russia, on 23 October 2024 and agreed to make yet another bid for a reset in bilateral relations.

Similar attempts had been made in the past – in Ahmedabad in 2014, in Wuhan in 2018, and in Mamallapuram in Tamil Nadu in 2019 – only to be met with spectacular failures along the disputed boundary in the icy heights of the Himalayas.

DH News Service

WORLD AT A GLANCE

A police officer stands with a megaphone as the building of the West Nusa Tenggara Provincial Council office burns in Mataram, Indonesia, on Saturday. AFP

Protesters sets Indonesia's local parliament ablaze, three killed

▸ An angry mob torched a local parliament building in an Indonesian provincial capital, killing at least three people and hospitalising five others, AP/PTI reports from Jakarta.

The blaze in Makassar, the capital of South Sulawesi province, began late on Friday. Television reports showed the provincial council building engulfed in flames overnight, casting an eerie orange glow over the area. Rescuers recovered three bodies by Saturday morning, while five people were hospitalised with burns or broken bones after jumping from the building, said Fadli Tahar, a local disaster official. Protesters in West Java's Bandung city also set a regional parliament ablaze on Friday, though no casualties were reported. In Surabaya, Indonesia's second-largest city, protesters stormed the regional police headquarters after destroying fences and torching vehicles. Security forces fired tear gas and used water cannons, while demonstrators retaliated with fireworks and wooden clubs. Calm largely returned to Indonesia's capital on Saturday as authorities cleared away burned-out cars, police posts and bus shelters destroyed during the protests.

US urged to reconsider Abbas visa

▸ Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas's office on Saturday urged the US government to reverse its unusual decision to revoke his visa, weeks before he was due to appear at the UN's annual high-level meeting and an international conference on establishing a Palestinian state, AP/PTI reports from Ramallah (West Bank).

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio rescinded the visas of Abbas and 80 other officials ahead of next month's annual UN General Assembly session, the State Department said Friday. Abbas has addressed the General Assembly for many years and usually leads the Palestinian delegation. "We call upon the American administration to reverse its decision. This decision will only increase tension and escalation," Palestinian presidential spokesperson Nabil Abu Rudeineh said.

Three Scottish brothers – Lachlan, Jamie, and Ewan MacLean – celebrate after setting a new record for rowing non-stop and unsupported across the Pacific Ocean, as they arrive in Cairns, Australia, on Saturday. AFP

Indian jailed over Singapore crash

▸ An Indian national was sentenced to two years and a month in jail and fined SGD2,000 on Friday by a Singapore court for killing a senior National University of Singapore (NUS) law professor in a road accident in 2023, PTI reports from Singapore.

On July 7, 2023, Natarajan Mohanraj (28), a construction worker while driving a lorry looked at his mobile phone and the vehicle hit a car driven by Emeritus Professor Tan Yock Lin (70). The injured was taken to a hospital where he died later that day due to multiple injuries. According to a report by The Straits Times, Natarajan had a history of careless driving. The Traffic Police had issued him a notice in June 2023 to surrender his licence before July 25, but the accident occurred two weeks before the deadline.

Egypt passenger train derails

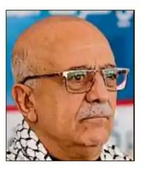
▸ A passenger train derailed on Saturday in western Egypt, killing at least three people and injuring 94 others, AP/PTI reports from Cairo.

The train derailed as it travelled to Cairo from the western Mediterranean province of Matrouh, on the country's north coast, railway authorities said in a statement. Seven of its wagons went off the tracks. The Health Ministry released a separate statement detailing the casualty count, adding that 30 ambulances were dispatched to transfer the injured to hospitals.

Israeli airstrike kills Houthi rebel prime minister in Sanaa

CAIRO, AP/PTI: The Iranian-backed Houthis said on Saturday that an Israeli airstrike killed the prime minister of the rebel-controlled government in the Yemeni capital, Sanaa.

Ahmed al-Rahawi was killed in a Thursday strike along with a number of ministers, the rebels said. The Israeli military said on Thursday that it "precisely struck a Houthi terrorist regime military target in the area of Sanaa in Yemen".



Ahmed al-Rahawi

Al-Rahawi, who served as prime minister to the Houthi-led government since August 2024, was targeted along with other members of his Houthi-controlled government during a routine workshop held by the government.

The Houthis have repeatedly launched missiles against Israel throughout Israel's war against Hamas in Gaza.

Appeals court rules most of Trump's tariffs as illegal

White House vows to fight on

BLOOMBERG

Judge blocks expanding rapid deportation process

A US judge on Friday blocked the Trump administration from massively expanding a procedure that allows authorities to swiftly deport migrants without a court hearing, AFP reports from Washington.

The process, which is called "expedited removal," had previously been used to rapidly deport migrants detained near the Mexican border if they had entered the US in the previous two weeks. However since January, the administration has expanded the use of the procedure across the whole country -- and applied it to migrants who have been in the US for up to two years. US District Judge Jia Cobb blocked this expanded use of the procedure, saying it could lead to people being "erroneously" deported without due process.

Most of President Donald Trump's global tariffs have been ruled illegal by a federal appeals court, which found he exceeded his authority by imposing them through an emergency law. However, the judges allowed the levies to remain in place while the case proceeds.

The US Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit on Friday upheld an earlier ruling by the Court of International Trade that Trump wrongfully invoked the law to hit nations worldwide with heavy tariffs. But the appellate judges said the lower court should revisit its decision to block the tariffs universally, rather than applying relief only to the parties in the case.

"The statute bestows significant authority on the President to undertake a number of actions in response to a declared national emergency, but none of these actions explicitly include the power to impose tariffs, duties, or the like, or the power to tax," the court said.

Friday's 7-4 decision extends the uncertainty over whether Trump's tariffs will ultimately survive. The case had been expected to next go to the Supreme Court. The administration could now appeal to the justices, who have largely backed the president on other matters, or allow the Court of International Trade to reconsider the scope of its ruling first.

"ALL TARIFFS ARE STILL IN EFFECT!" Trump said in a post on Truth Social shortly after the decision was issued.

"Today a highly partisan Appeals Court incorrectly said that our tariffs should be removed, but they know the USA will win in the end," he added.

Trump to skip Quad Summit in India: Report

NEW YORK, PTI

US President Donald Trump "no longer has plans" to visit India later this year for the Quad Summit, The New York Times reported on Saturday, as it detailed how relations between the American leader and Prime Minister Narendra Modi have "unravelled" in recent months.

In the report titled "The Nobel Prize and a Testy Phone Call: How the Trump-Modi Relationship Unravelled", the NYT, citing people familiar with Trump's schedule, said: "After telling Mr Modi that he would travel to India later this year for the Quad summit, Mr Trump no longer has plans to visit in the fall." There was no official comment from either the US or India on the NYT's claim.

India is set to host leaders of Australia, Japan and the US for the Quad Summit, scheduled to be held in New Delhi around November.

The Trump administration hosted the Quad Foreign Ministers' Meeting in January this year, a day after Trump took the oath of office for a second term in the White House.

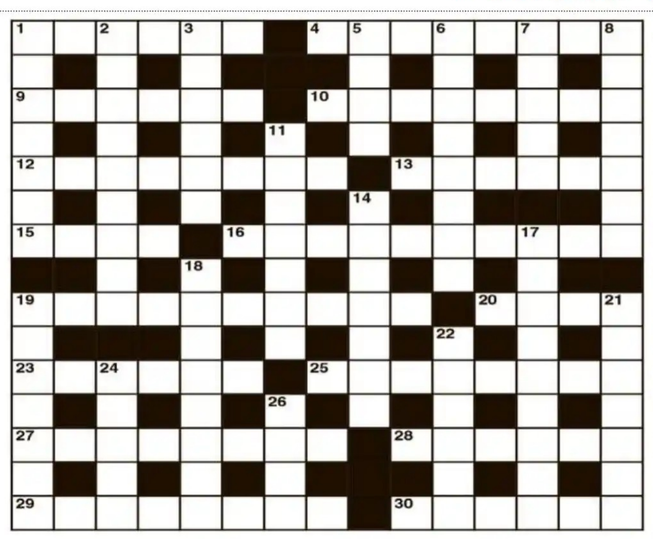
Amid trade tensions between Delhi and Washington, the NYT article recounted how relations between Trump and Modi unravelled after Trump's repeated claims of solving the four-day conflict in May between India and Pakistan, an assertion strongly denied by India.

"President Trump's repeated claims about having 'solved' the India-Pakistan war infuriated Prime Minister Narendra Modi of India. And that was only the beginning," the NYT reported, adding that Modi was "losing patience" with Trump.

The two leaders spoke over the phone on June 17 in a 35-minute call, as Trump returned to Washington from the G7 Summit in Canada, which Modi also attended.

Modi and Trump had been expected to meet on the sidelines of the G7 Leaders' Summit in Kananaskis, but Trump returned to Washington early.

◆ SUNDAY CROSSWORD CHALLENGE 2643 ◆



ACROSS

1 A painful experience (6)
4 Range of opinions (8)
9 Showy without taste (6)
10 Distraught (8)
12 Keep back for future use (3,2,3)
13 Sullen (6)
15 Photograph (4)
16 That sounds reasonable (4,6)
19 Simply as a precaution (4,2,4)
20 The chances (4)
23 The winner (3,3)
25 Unpunished (4-4)
27 Invite trouble (3,3,2)
28 A plain unprinted cotton cloth (6)
29 Scornful (8)
30 Refuse to accept (6)

DOWN

1 A marine cephalopod (7)
2 Stop working and strike (4,5)
3 Exposure to open debate (6)
5 Unadulterated (4)
6 Throw into confusion (8)
7 Proportion (5)
8 Shakespearean regicide (7)
11 Withdraw from contest (7)
14 Divide into three pieces (7)
17 Being rigorously criticised (5,4)
18 Easily alarmed (8)
19 World War One naval battle (7)
21 Make sure (3,2,2)
22 In relaxed frame of mind (2,4)
24 A gambling card game (5)
26 Capital of Ukraine (4)

SOLUTIONS TO CROSSWORD 4003

CRYPTIC

ACROSS: 9, P-reserved 10, Promotion 12, R-I-d-e 13, Freeze 14, Vi-brat-e 15, Transport 17, Re-collect 18, Figured 19, O-rdai-n 20, Stab (rev) 23, Crab apple 25, Sand-stone 26, Meet (rev) 27, Advise 29, Stop-gap 32, The-Orises 34, P-rot-ester 35, Ro-I-ster 36, S-ingle 37, O-we'd 38, Sta-lema-te 39, Re-sources.

DOWN: 1, A-per-it-if 2, Dead language 3, Overload 4, A-d-vent 5, Appear-ed 6, Conviction 7, Cow-bell 8, Unbeatable 11, I-mag-e 16, S-cream 19, One 21, Thought twice 22, Ash-O-re 23, Come to rest 24, Pedestrian 25, See 28, Insisted 29, Spot-less 30, Parad-is-e 31, Wr-itt-en 33, Er-I-ca (rev) 34, P-ant-ry.

EASY

ACROSS: 9, Heartfelt 10, Cockroach 12, Myth 13, Stroke 14, Premier 15, Identical 17, Magnitude 18, Natural 19, Ordeal 20, Fort 23, Prevented 25, Custodian 26, Rite 27, Malady 29, Magenta 32, Permanent 34, Doubtless 35, Repress 36, Tomato 37, Iron 38, Sweetened 39, Grievance.

DOWN: 1, Champion 2, Maltreatment 3, Vertical 4, Stroll 5, Screamed 6, Scapegoats 7, Arsenic 8, Charleston 11, Adieu 16, Target 19, Old 21, Orienteering 22, Forget 23, Paraphrase 24, Traversing 25, Coy 28, Attitude 29, Mountain 30, Assented 31, Gazette 33, Rupee 34, Damage.

SU DO KU X - 3662

1	3				4		5	7
	4	6						
	5			8				
	7				5			8
					8			
				1				
	9			2				6
		2	7	3				4
	6	7						

SOLUTION TO 3661

9	2	1	3	6	4	8	7	5
7	6	8	9	1	5	2	3	4
3	4	5	7	8	2	1	6	9
2	3	7	1	9	6	5	4	8
8	9	4	5	2	7	3	1	6
1	5	6	8	4	3	7	9	2
6	8	9	2	7	1	4	5	3
5	7	2	4	3	9	6	8	1
4	1	3	6	5	8	9	2	7

To solve the puzzle: The objective is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column, each 3x3 box and each shaded diagonal line contains the same number only once.

Dravid steps down as Royals' head coach

BENGALURU, DHNS: Rajasthan Royals and head coach Rahul Dravid have parted ways ahead of the 2026 IPL season, with the franchise announcing the development on Saturday.

Rahul Dravid

The former India captain stepped down from his position after turning down a "broader position" within the franchise.

Dravid took over Royals's head coach, ahead of the IPL 2025 season. The Royals' announcement comes amidst rumours that skipper Sanju Samson too wants to leave the team he has been associated with for a few years now.

"Rahul has been central to the Royals' journey for many years. His leadership has influenced a generation of players, instilled strong values within the squad, and left an indelible mark on the culture of the franchise," Royals posted in a statement on X.

"As part of the franchise structural review, Rahul had been offered a broader position at the franchise but has chosen not to take this.

"The Rajasthan Royals, its players, millions of fans worldwide extend heartfelt thanks to Rahul for his remarkable service to the franchise."

IN BRIEF

Deepika blow to India women

▸ Hockey India confirmed on Saturday that drag-flicker Deepika will miss the Women's Asia Cup in China after suffering a hamstring injury during training, reports DHNS.

She will undergo rehabilitation for the next few weeks, with Sakshi named as her replacement in the squad for the tournament scheduled from September 5 to 14 in Hangzhou. The champions will secure a berth in next year's World Cup in Belgium and the Netherlands.

Don's baggy green sold

▸ A "baggy green" Test cap worn by Australian cricketing legend Don Bradman has been bought for Aus$438,550 (US$287,000) by the country's National Museum, which called it an iconic slice of history, reports AFP from Sydney.

Diksha stuns Pimchanok

▸ Indian shuttler Diksha Sudhakar produced a brilliant performance to upset ninth seed Pimchanok Sutthiviriyakul of Thailand 21-11, 19-21, 21-9 and advance to the women's singles semifinals of the late Sushant Chipalkatti India Junior International Grand Prix Badminton Tournament on Saturday, reports PTI from Pune.

◆ ON TV ◆

TENNIS

US Open: Fourth round **(8:30 pm)**. **LIVE** on **Star Sports Network, JioHotstar.**

BADMINTON

World C'ships: Final **(12:30 pm)**. **LIVE** on **Star Sports Network.**

HOCKEY

Asia Cup: China vs Kazakhstan **(1 pm)**, Japan vs India **(3 pm)**. **LIVE** on **Sony Sports Network**.

FOOTBALL

EPL: Brighton vs Manchester City, Nottingham Forest vs West Ham **(all 6:30 pm)**, Liverpool vs Arsenal **(9:30 pm)**, Aston Villa vs Crystal Palace **(11:30 pm)**. **LIVE** on **Star Sports Network, JioHotstar.**

La Liga: Celta Vigo vs Villarreal **(8:30 pm)**, Real Betis vs Athletic Bilbao **(10:30 pm)**, Espanyol vs Osasuna **(11 pm)**, Rayo Vallecano vs Barcelona **(1 am) LIVE** on **FanCode.**

MOTORSPORT

Formula 1: Dutch GP **(Race 6:30 pm)**. **LIVE** on **FanCode, F1 TVPro.**

HOCKEY ASIA CUP

Manpreet: Setting milestones and creating legacies

Midfielder only second Indian to play 400 internationals

HITA PRAKASH
BENGALURU, DHNS

Ask any Roger Federer fan about Novak Djokovic winning more Grand Slams than the Swiss great, and chances are most would frown at you.

Pose the same question to Indian hockey player Manpreet Singh, an ardent follower of the 20-time major champion, and he replies: "No. Why? It's okay. They have each created their own legacies," before adding: "Now there is (Carlos) Alcaraz and (Jannik) Sinner who are doing well, they might take over in the future no?."

> **MANPREET SINGH**
> India's midfielder
>
> "Getting to represent the country by itself was a huge thing for me. And to get close to Dilip sir's record.. It's a big deal. I could play for so long only because of the support of my team, family and the federation.

The 33-year-old Indian midfield mainstay should know a thing about setting records and creating legacies, for Manpreet became only the second men's player from the country to cross 400 international matches in June. Former India captain and Hockey India president Dilip Tirkey's record of 412 appearances is under genuine threat now.

Now, ask the player with 402 caps about making history of his own and leaving behind a footprint, he humbly passes on the credit to everybody around him.

"Getting to represent the country by itself was a huge thing for me. And to get close to Dilip sir's record.. It's a big deal. I could play for so long only because of the support of my team, family and the federation. Because this is not something anyone can achieve individually."

Manpreet's innate positive attitude was perhaps the reason for his career's longevity. At the wrong end of the 30s, the Mithapur-born man from Jalandhar, Punjab, is still one of the quickest on the field who exudes energy considered infectious by his team-mates.

"On my debut in 2012, I was so excited and nervous to share the field with greats of Indian hockey such as Rupinderpal Singh, Rajpal Singh, Ignace Tirkey and many more. It was the Asian Champions Trophy in China and we won gold. That medal will always remain special.

"I learnt from them that you don't let junior-senior egos come into the equation in a team set-up. Even today, my team-mates joke around saying 'this fellow has been playing since 2012'," said the former captain who led India to bronze at the Tokyo Olympics in 2021 before playing under Harmanpreet Singh-led India that repeated the feat at the Paris Games.

Besides leading the midfield, Manpreet specialises as the stopper during penalty corners. Along with pusher Hardik Singh and dragflicker Harmanpreet, the trio form a team of their own within the team.

Midfielder Manpreet Singh (right) credits team-mates and family support for his long international career. PTI

On Friday, during India's 4-3 win against China at their Asia Cup opener, Manpreet was found fumbling on two occasions while stopping an injected ball from Hardik that appeared to have disturbed Harmanpreet's rhythm. This is why multiple penalty corner-specific sessions during camps, Manpreet explained, are a point of focus to fine-tune the bond of a pusher-stopper-flicker in the nuanced structure.

"Look, we have one of the best dragflickers (Harmanpreet) in the world. We have to use him to our optimum best. So it is my responsibility, as a stopper, to trap the ball well to make it easy for Harman or Jugraj (Singh) to execute."

For the Khel Ratna awardee, who has seen the sport's transition from two-halve 70-minute play to four-half 60-minute games, fitness takes prominence over the rest to keep up with the fast-paced modern-day hockey.

"The last five years have been all about maintaining body weight. Being an athlete is a 365-day job. Even when I go back home for a week or two during breaks, I'm conscious of what I eat. You know how Punjabis are big on food," he laughed.

Fussy eaters, effortlessly funny by nature, age-defying athletes ... rings a bell? A certain Serbian tennis player with 24 Slams and chasing a 25th at the US Open in New York right now?

There's a banter by Hardik in an Instagram video that came this week. "Everybody talks about Djokovic... I mean, look at this bhaisab, yaar," quips the vice-captain while focussing the camera on a smiling Manpreet. Makes perfect sense!

India hope for better showing against Japan

HITA PRAKASH
RAJGIR, DHNS

India's tough 4-3 win against China in their Asia Cup opener was considered an early wake-up call. Rusty start, missed penalty stroke and lapses in the defence had the team scrambling from start to finish in hot and humid conditions.

The challenge from the world No. 23rd team came on expected lines. But that the Harmanpreet Singh-led will be pushed to the brink wasn't completely anticipated. And the hosts will be hoping to come out and deliver a much-improved game when they take on Japan in their second Pool A contest at the Bihar Sports University Hockey Stadium in Rajgir on Sunday.

With all the four goals coming from penalty corner conversions, coach Craig Fulton will be keen for his men to show more zest in creating opportunities to slam in some field goals. Among the forwards who will shoulder this responsibility, 25-year-old Dilprit Singh, who stood out with his attacking skills against China, would be in search of a reward for his efforts. His counterparts and seasoned players Mandeep Singh and Abhishek, who remained in the shadows, will be expected to up the ante.

As for the defence, early lessons learnt in the first game should have given coach Fulton enough perspective to patch the gaps to avoid lapses. Afterall, the South African thrives on the defensive mantra to stay offensive.

"Scoring and also conceding was the problem in the Pro League also," Fulton had said in the pre-tournament presser on Thursday. It wasn't too different here on Friday.

This precisely will be the weakness the 18th-ranked opponents, Japan, will be seeking to pounce on. In the 7-0 victory over Kazakhstan, the Raiki Fujishima-led side was barely troubled and looked like a good warm-up to get ready for India. Forward Koji Yamasaki is the player India will be wary of.

Hero ASIA CUP RAJGIR, BIHAR 2025

Malaysia beat Korea

In the Pool B games on Saturday, Akhimullah Anuar's hat-trick helped Malaysia get the better of defending champions Korea with a 4-1 scoreline while Bangladesh trounced Chinese Taipei 8-3.

Except for Geonhyo Jin's opening goal in the first quarter, there was little to cheer for the five-time title winners Korea as Malaysia produced a dominating show in the rest of the three quarters.

Results: Pool B: Malaysia: 4 (Akhimullah Anuar 29th, 34th, 57th, Ashran Hamsani 33rd) bt Korea: 1 (Geonhyo Jin 2nd); Bangladesh: 8 (Md Abdullah 4th, 26th, 45th, S Sobuj 36th, Rakibul Hasan 42nd, 42nd, A Islam 45th, Rezaul Babu 56th) bt Chinese Taipei: 3 (Tsung-Yu Hsieh 10th, 18th, Tsung-Jen Shih 60th).

Pak confirm entry for Jr WC

Following Pakistan's withdrawal from the ongoing Asia Cup in Rajgir, Bihar, doubts were cast over their colts' participation for the junior men's hockey World Cup scheduled to be held in Chennai in December.

However, Bhola Nath Singh, Hockey India secretary general, on Saturday confirmed Pakistan's entry for the event further adding that the ties between HI and the Pakistan Hockey Federation have always remained cordial.

Most India stars arrive for fitness test

Kohli conspicuous by his absence for pre-season assessment at CoE

BENGALURU, DHNS

Majority of the Indian stars -- including India Test skipper Shubman Gillm ODI captain Rohit Sharma and pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah -- will undergo fitness assessment before continuing with their preparations here at BCCI Centre of Excellence, ahead of their departure to Dubai for the upcoming Asia Cup.

Besides the trio, other key players to arrive here on Saturday were Mohammed Siraj and Yashasvi Jaiswal though there was no news on the status of Virat Kohli.

Apart from the regular Yo-Yo test, a DXA Scan, employed to test bone density, will also be done.

Though Rohit isn't part of the Asia Cup squad, having retired from T20s last year, his fitness test, it appears, is being done keeping India's three-match ODI series in Australia in October. Kohli, not unlike Rohit, is left with only 50-over format having quit both T20s and Tests.

The tests are likely to take place on Sunday.

As speculated, it remains to be seen whether Rohit and Kohli will play for India A in three one-day matches against Australia A on September 30, October 3 and 5 in Kanpur.

Gill had been named the captain of North Zone that is playing East Zone in the playoff here but a bout of flu had forced him to skip the match. He is likely to leave for Dubai from Bengaluru itself.

Wicketkeeper-batter Jitesh Sharma, Washington Sundar and Shardul Thakur too have arrived at the CoE for the mandatory pre-season assessment.

Jasprit Bumrah (left) Rohit Sharma (third from right), Shubman Gill (second from right) and Shardul Thakur (right) arrive at the BCCI Centre of Excellence for fitness assessment on Saturday. PTI

What's DXA scan?

A DXA scan is a quick, painless way to check bone health, helping in measuring the strength and mineral content of bones. DXA scans are used to screen for osteoporosis, osteopenia and other conditions that can silently weaken bones and increase fracture risk.

Ankit, Dhull tons push North Zone towards semis

BENGALURU, DHNS

North Zone skipper Ankit Kumar and rising star Yash Dhull struck contrasting centuries against East Zone, driving their team to a commanding position and within touching distance of a Duleep Trophy semifinal berth on Saturday.

Despite starting the day with a strong 183-run advantage, North chose to bat again, with Ankit unbeaten on 168 and Dhull scoring 133 off 157 balls to take the team to a towering 388/2 by stumps, leading by 563 runs.

The third day showcased North Zone's dominance as Ankit and Dhull stitched together a ruthless 240-run partnership for the second wicket in just 290 deliveries, leaving East Zone with no answers.

Dhull took the aggressive route, while Ankit adopted a more measured approach to build their partnership.

North Zone's Ankit Kumar (right) and Yash Dhull made hundreds against East Zone in Bengaluru. PTI

Central take 678 lead

Central Zone built an imposing 678-run lead over North East Zone by stumps on Day 3 of their quarterfinal encounter. After piling up 532/4 declared in the first innings, Central bowled out their rivals for 185 and then reached 331/7 in their second innings, powered by Shubham Sharma's fine century (122).

North East Zone, starting the day at 168/7, managed only 18 more runs as Khaleel Ahmed, previously wicketless, claimed two of the last three wickets.

Skipper Rajat Patidar (66) joined Sharma to steady the innings through a 122-run partnership, followed by a 131-run stand between Yash Rathod (78) and Sharma. However, North East found late cheer, dismissing Rathod and Aditya Thakare within three balls just before stumps.

Brief scores: North Zone: 405 and 388/2 in 90 overs (Ankit Kumar 168 n.o., Yash Dhull 133, Ayush Badoni 56) vs East Zone: 230 Central Zone 532/4 dec and 331/7 (Shubham Sharma 122, Yash Rathod 78, Rajat Patidar 66; Akash Choudhary 2-44, Bishworjit Konthoujam 2-67) vs North East Zone (O/n: 168/7) 185 all out in 69.3 overs (Karnajit Yumnam 48, Ankur Malik 42, Ashish Thapa 35; Aditya Thakare 3-23, Harsh Dubey 2-20, Khaleel Ahmed 2-36)

ACUK: Fifty years of shaping umpires' futures & fortunes

VIGNESH BHARADWAJ
BENGALURU, DHNS

March 1974 marked a seminal moment in the history of Karnataka cricket. A year after the State of Mysore was rechristened in 1973, EAS Prasanna-led team not only ended Bombay's 15-year Ranji Trophy winning run in a semifinal in Bangalore but defeated Rajasthan by 185 runs in the final to win the first of their eight coveted National titles.

While the Karnataka side was garlanded and greeted with celebrations back home, it also gave birth to the Association of Cricket Umpires Karnataka (ACUK), which completed its 50th year last April but due to unavoidable circumstances, couldn't celebrate their golden jubilee.

On Sunday, at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium, ACUK will mark the occasion with day-long events, including panel discussions and speeches.

"It all started with the Karnataka team winning the Ranji Trophy for the first time," A L Narasimhan, a former Indian umpire told *DH*.

"Many associations celewith the team. We thought why not the umpires also do it. However, we didn't have an association of sorts and suddenly, it occurred to a few individuals, particularly, MV Nagendra, the late SN Hanumatha Rao, BR Keshavmurthy and myself. We immediately approached C Nagaraj, the manager of the team for a small party and he agreed to do it.

"We arranged it at Hotel Kamadhenu on MG Road. When the team landed, we had a small function. It was very well attended. And it was at that time, it hit, why not start an association for umpires and that's how it all began," he recalled.

The association's mission has always been to better the standards of umpiring in Karnataka and prepare the umpires for their future commitments. And the ACUK has been doing so by providing the necessary support through seminars, symposiums and workshops.

"The basic idea was to start small and grow as time progresses. Lot of people at the time, our seniors and mentors, were always there to guide us. We started getting more members, lot of umpires, and, every month, most of them gather to talk about the latest laws, playing conditions etc. We also have speakers and that is how ACUK has grown," former International umpire, Shavir Tarapore said.

What started with about 14 members, the ACUK now has over 485 umpires and growing. Importantly, it has managed to give an identity and recognition to its people.

"Once in a month, on the second Wednesday, we meet and talk about the laws of cricket. I started umpiring in 1988 and became a member of the association. This is my 38th year with the ACUK. I was also a former president. It has been fantastic. Because of the ACUK, we have all achieved something in our lives.

"Without the association, I don't think we would have been recognised. So I'm very grateful for it," S Muralidhar, another Karnataka umpire said.

From left: Umpires VN Kulkarni, BR Kesavamurty, BK Sadashiva, then BCCI Secretary Jayawant Lele, umpire AL Narasimhan and then KSCA secretary Brijesh Patel at ACUK's silver Jubilee celebrations in 1999.

KSCA support

For an association that had no base camp, the Karnataka State Cricket Association (KSCA) provided a place for meetings, funded seminars, workshops, hosted umpires' cricket matches as well as arranged dinners for their Annual General Meetings (AGMs).

"There is no doubt about it, though we are two different entities (KSCA & ACUK), without the help of the KSCA, even in the minutest way, ACUK would have not lasted this long.

"We have used their premises for our monthly meetings, they have always promoted and helped ACUK in every way they can, or even more," remarked Shavir.

Talking about how the association has groomed and helped the 67-year-old, "I can say I have been one of the lucky ones who made it to the top, and being the member of the ACUK, the seniors, mentors helped me a lot, taking part in discussions, so that way, and I think I am lucky to be a part of the ACUK."

There have been proud voices from the association before, and will be in the future.

Indian fan zones sold out 50 days ahead of series: Cricket Aus

MELBOURNE, PTI: Cricket Australia has announced that the dedicated Indian fan zones at all eight venues for the upcoming white-ball series against India have been sold out, underlining the massive demand for the contest between the two cricketing heavyweights.

Public tickets for the Sydney and Canberra matches have also been fully booked well in advance, Cricket Australia added.

India will play three ODIs and five T20Is on the tour, beginning with the opening ODI in Perth on October 19.

"We are excited to see the momentum building around this series and the strong passion fans continue to display for the game. We're looking forward to a vibrant atmosphere in the stands and a world-class contest on the field between two great cricketing nations."

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA

KARNATAKA GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT

Revenue Department, M. S. Building, Bengaluru

NO: E-RD 177 GRC 2025 **Date: 29.08.2025**

NOTIFICATION

Whereas, upon considering the report of the Deputy Commissioner, Udupi District and after due investigation of the complaints of depositors it has come to the notice of the Government, that M/s Samruddha Jeevan Multi State Multi-Purpose Co-operative Society Ltd and Samruddha Jeevan Foods India Ltd., and Prosperity Agro India Ltd., and its Group Entities are involved in fraudulent transactions by clandestinely and illegally collecting deposits or money from the general public and thereafter have failed to return the same either after maturity or on demand made by the depositors or complainants with promised interest and other assured benefits and thereby have failed to render the services promised to them.

And whereas, it has further come to the notice of the Government that M/s Samruddha Jeevan Multi State Multi-Purpose Co-operative Society Ltd and Samruddha Jeevan Foods India Ltd., and Prosperity Agro India Ltd., and its Group Entities and people associating with them have been acquiring lands, movable and immovable properties, cash and others from and out of the deposits or money so collected, from the depositors or complainants and thereby deviating from the intended purposes of accepting the deposits or money.

And whereas, the Government has reason to believe that the actions of M/s Samruddha Jeevan Multi State Multi-Purpose Co-operative Society Ltd and Samruddha Jeevan Foods India Ltd., and Prosperity Agro India Ltd., and its Group Entities and people associating with them are acting in and detrimental to the interest of the depositors or complainants whose intention was to defraud the innocent depositors, and it has become necessary to protect the interest of the depositors of the M/s Samruddha Jeevan Multi State Multi-Purpose Co-operative Society Ltd and Samruddha Jeevan Foods India Ltd., and Prosperity Agro India Ltd., and its Group Entities.

And whereas, now the Government after considering the reports of the Special Officer and Competent Authority IMA and Competent Authority for M/s Samruddha Jeevan Multi State Multi-Purpose Co-operative Society Ltd and Samruddha Jeevan Foods India Ltd., and Prosperity Agro India Ltd., and its Group Entities and satisfying itself about the urgent need to protect the interest of the depositors and in exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (2) of Section (3) of the Karnataka Protection of interest of Depositors in Financial Establishment Act, 2004 (Karnataka Act 30 of 2005) hereby makes the following order, namely:

"ORDER"

Now therefore, in exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (2) of Section (3) of the Karnataka Protection of interest of Depositors in Financial Establishment Act, 2004 (Karnataka Act 30 of 2005), the Government under the circumstances stated above having satisfied that in order to protect the interest of depositors it is necessary to attach the movable and immovable properties believed to belong to M/s Samruddha Jeevan Multi State Multi-Purpose Co-operative Society Ltd and Samruddha Jeevan Foods India Ltd., and Prosperity Agro India Ltd., and its Group Entities.

Therefore, the Government hereby attaches the immovable properties as specified in the Annexure 1 and 2 to this order believed to have been acquired by the Samruddha Jeevan Multi State Multi-Purpose Co-operative Society Ltd and Samruddha Jeevan Foods India Ltd., and Prosperity Agro India Ltd., and its Group Entities, either in its own name or in the name of any other person from and out of the deposits collected by the M/s Samruddha Jeevan Multi State Multi-Purpose Co-operative Society Ltd and Samruddha Jeevan Foods India Ltd., and Prosperity Agro India Ltd., and its Group Entities, and where it transpires that such money or such other properties of the said financial establishment, or the personal assets of the promoters, partners, directors, managers or members or any other person of the said financial establishment is not sufficient for the repayment of the deposits or interest or such other assured benefits to the depositors.

Note: All the aforesaid immovable properties from the date of publication of this order in the Official Gazette, shall forth with vest with the Competent Authority, who has been appointed by the Government, pending further orders from the Special Court.

By Order and in the name of the Governor of Karnataka
Sd/-
(Anwar Basha)
Deputy Secretary to Government,
Revenue Department (Services-1, SSLR & Special Cell)

Annexure-1

Details of the immovable properties belonging to Directors of M/s Prosperity Agro India Limited.

Sl. No.	Property Details	Seller	Purchaser	Deed Number and Date	Market Value	Reasons for Attachment
1	All the Piece and Parcel of Agriculture Land bearing New Survey No.23/1 measuring 6-00 Acre situated at Mailara Village, Ballolli Hobli, Indi Taluk, Bijapura (Vijayapura) District. (Boundary details will be obtained at the time of Valuation)	1. Mr.Tulajaram Babu Burudkar 2. Mr.Chandrashekhar Tulajaram Burudkar 3. Mr.Satish Tulajaram Burudkar 4. Mr.Dhanraj Tulajaram Burudkar 5. Mr. Shrinivas Tulujaram Burudkar 6. Mr. Narayan Babu Burudkar 7. Mrs. Chandrabhaga Narayan Burudkar 8. Mr. Pravin Narayan Burudkar	Mrs. Vanashri Tukaram Chidrawar	IND-1-00695-2010-11, 04-05-2010	Will be obtained from the authorized valuer at the time of valuation	The property stands in the name of Director of Financial Establishment
2	All the Piece and Parcel of Agriculture Land bearing New Survey No.23/2 measuring 6-00 Acre situated at Mailara Village, Ballolli Hobli, Indi Taluk, Bijapura (Vijayapura) District. (Boundary details will be obtained at the time of Valuation)	1. Mr.Tulajaram Babu Burudkar 2. Mr.Chandrashekhar Tulajaram Burudkar 3. Mr.Satish Tulajaram Burudkar 4. Mr.Dhanraj Tulajaram Burudkar 5. Mr. Shrinivas Tulujaram Burudkar 6. Mr. Narayan Babu Burudkar 7. Mrs. Chandrabhaga Narayan Burudkar 8. Mr. Pravin Narayan Burudkar	Mrs. Vanashri Tukaram Chidrawar	IND-1-00695-2010-11, 04-05-2010	Will be obtained from the authorized valuer at the time of valuation	The property stands in the name of Director of Financial Establishment
3	All the Piece and Parcel of Agriculture Land bearing New Survey No.23/3 measuring 6-00 Acre situated at Mailara Village, Ballolli Hobli, Indi Taluk, Bijapura (Vijayapura) District. (Boundary details will be obtained at the time of Valuation)	1. Mr.Tulajaram Babu Burudkar 2. Mr.Chandrashekhar Tulajaram Burudkar 3. Mr.Satish Tulajaram Burudkar 4. Mr.Dhanraj Tulajaram Burudkar 5. Mr. Shrinivas Tulujaram Burudkar 6. Mr. Narayan Babu Burudkar 7. Mrs. Chandrabhaga Narayan Burudkar 8. Mr. Pravin Narayan Burudkar	Mrs. Vanashri Tukaram Chidrawar	IND-1-00695-2010-11, 04-05-2010	Will be obtained from the authorized valuer at the time of valuation	The property stands in the name of Director of Financial Establishment
4	All the Piece and Parcel of Agriculture Land bearing New Survey No.23/4 measuring 6-00 Acre situated at Mailara Village, Ballolli Hobli, Indi Taluk, Bijapura (Vijayapura) District. (Boundary details will be obtained at the time of Valuation)	1. Mr.Tulajaram Babu Burudkar 2. Mr.Chandrashekhar Tulajaram Burudkar 3. Mr.Satish Tulajaram Burudkar 4. Mr.Dhanraj Tulajaram Burudkar 5. Mr. Shrinivas Tulujaram Burudkar 6. Mr. Narayan Babu Burudkar 7. Mrs. Chandrabhaga Narayan Burudkar 8. Mr. Pravin Narayan Burudkar	Mrs. Vanashri Tukaram Chidrawar	IND-1-00695-2010-11, 04-05-2010	Will be obtained from the authorized valuer at the time of valuation	The property stands in the name of Director of Financial Establishment
5	All the Piece and Parcel of Agriculture Land bearing New Survey No.23/5 measuring 5-39 Acre-Guntas situated at Mailara Village, Ballolli Hobli, Indi Taluk, Bijapura (Vijayapura) District. (Boundary details will be obtained at the time of Valuation)	1. Mr.Tulajaram Babu Burudkar 2. Mr.Chandrashekhar Tulajaram Burudkar 3. Mr.Satish Tulajaram Burudkar 4. Mr.Dhanraj Tulajaram Burudkar 5. Mr. Shrinivas Tulujaram Burudkar 6. Mr. Narayan Babu Burudkar 7. Mrs. Chandrabhaga Narayan Burudkar 8. Mr. Pravin Narayan Burudkar	Mrs. Vanashri Tukaram Chidrawar	IND-1-00695-2010-11, 04-05-2010	Will be obtained from the authorized valuer at the time of valuation	The property stands in the name of Director of Financial Establishment
6	All the Piece and Parcel of Agriculture Land bearing New Survey No.23/6 measuring 6-00 Acre situated at Mailara Village, Ballolli Hobli, Indi Taluk, Bijapura (Vijayapura) District. (Boundary details will be obtained at the time of Valuation)	1. Mr.Tulajaram Babu Burudkar 2. Mr.Chandrashekhar Tulajaram Burudkar 3. Mr.Satish Tulajaram Burudkar 4. Mr.Dhanraj Tulajaram Burudkar 5. Mr. Shrinivas Tulujaram Burudkar 6. Mr. Narayan Babu Burudkar 7. Mrs. Chandrabhaga Narayan Burudkar 8. Mr. Pravin Narayan Burudkar	Mrs. Vanashri Tukaram Chidrawar	IND-1-00695-2010-11, 04-05-2010	Will be obtained from the authorized valuer at the time of valuation	The property stands in the name of Director of Financial Establishment
7	All the Piece and Parcel of Agriculture Land bearing New Survey No.23/7 measuring 3-00 Acre situated at Mailara Village, Ballolli Hobli, Indi Taluk, Bijapura (Vijayapura) District. (Boundary details will be obtained at the time of Valuation)	1. Mr.Tulajaram Babu Burudkar 2. Mr.Chandrashekhar Tulajaram Burudkar 3. Mr.Satish Tulajaram Burudkar 4. Mr.Dhanraj Tulajaram Burudkar 5. Mr. Shrinivas Tulujaram Burudkar 6. Mr. Narayan Babu Burudkar 7. Mrs. Chandrabhaga Narayan Burudkar 8. Mr. Pravin Narayan Burudkar	Mrs. Vanashri Tukaram Chidrawar	IND-1-00695-2010-11, 04-05-2010	Will be obtained from the authorized valuer at the time of valuation	The property stands in the name of Director of Financial Establishment

Annexure-2

Details of the immovable properties belonging to M/s Prosperity Agro India Limited

Sl. No.	Property Details	Seller	Purchaser	Deed Number and Date	Present Market Value	Reasons for Attachment
1	All that piece and parcel of Rubber plantation Agriculture land property bearing Sy.No.16*1A1-21 measuring an extent of 3-00 Acre-Cents (along with trees of Rubber, coconut and Betel nut), situated at Mudur Village, Byndoor Hobli, Byndoor Taluk, Udupi District. Bounded By: East: Property of Sy. No. 16*1A1 West: Property of Sy. No. 16*1A1-20 North: Property of Sy. No. 16*1A1 South: Property of Sy. No. 16*1A1-9 and 16*1A1	M/s Govinda Plantations ® represented by its Managing Partner Sri M Kamalesh S/o Late M Krishna Bhat	M/s Prosperity Agro India Limited represented by its Assistant Regional Manager Sri Bahubali S/o Parisa Halingale	SKN-1-00947-2014-15, 17-09-2014	Will be obtained from the authorized valuer at the time of valuation.	The property stands in the name of Financial Establishment.
2	All that piece and parcel of Rubber plantation Agriculture land property bearing Sy.No.16*1A1-18 measuring an extent of 1-02 Acre-Cents (along with trees of Rubber, coconut and Betel nut), situated at Mudur Village, Byndoor Hobli, Byndoor Taluk, Udupi District. Bounded By: East: Property of Sy. No. 16*1A1-19 West: Property of Sy. No. 16*1A1 North: Property of Sy. No. 16*1A1 South: Property of Sy. No. 16*1A1-9	M/s Govinda Plantations ® represented by its Managing Partner Sri M Kamalesh S/o Late M Krishna Bhat	M/s Prosperity Agro India Limited represented by its Assistant Regional Manager Sri Bahubali S/o Parisa Halingale	SKN-1-00947-2014-15, 17-09-2014	Will be obtained from the authorized valuer at the time of valuation.	The property stands in the name of Financial Establishment.
3	All that piece and parcel of Rubber plantation Agriculture land property bearing Sy.No.19/2 measuring an extent of 1-53 Acre-Cents (along with trees of Rubber, coconut and Betel nut), situated at Mudur Village, Byndoor Hobli, Byndoor Taluk, Udupi District. Bounded By: East: Property of Sy. No. 19/1 West: Property of Sy. No.15 & 16 North: Property of Sy. No. 15 South: Property of Sy. No. 16	Sri M Kamalesh S/o Late M Krishna Bhat	M/s Prosperity Agro India Limited represented by its Director Sri Dattatray S/o Madhav Yadav	SKN-1-00959-2014-15, 19-09-2014	Will be obtained from the authorized valuer at the time of valuation.	The property stands in the name of Financial Establishment.
4	All that piece and parcel of Rubber plantation Agriculture land property bearing Sy.No.16*1A1-20 measuring an extent of 03-00 Acre-Cents (along with trees of Rubber, coconut and Betel nut), situated at Mudur Village, Byndoor Hobli, Byndoor Taluk, Udupi District. Bounded By: East: Property of Sy. No. 16*1A1-21 West: Property of Sy. No.16*1A1-19 North: Property of Sy. No. 16*1A1 South: Property of Sy. No. 16*1A1-9	Sri M Kamalesh S/o Late M Krishna Bhat	M/s Prosperity Agro India Limited represented by its Director Sri Dattatray S/o Madhav Yadav	SKN-1-00959-2014-15, 19-09-2014	Will be obtained from the authorized valuer at the time of valuation.	The property stands in the name of Financial Establishment.
5	All that piece and parcel of Rubber plantation Agriculture land property bearing Sy.No.16*1A1-19 measuring an extent of 01-00 Acre-Cents (along with trees of Rubber, coconut and Betel nut), situated at Mudur Village, Byndoor Hobli, Byndoor Taluk, Udupi District. Bounded By: East: Property of Sy. No. 16*1A1-20 West: Property of Sy. No.16*1A1-8 North: Property of Sy. No. 16*1A1 South:Property of Sy. No. 16*1A1-9	Sri M Kamalesh S/o Late M Krishna Bhat	M/s Prosperity Agro India Limited represented by its Director Sri Dattatray S/o Madhav Yadav	SKN-1-00959-2014-15, 19-09-2014	Will be obtained from the authorized valuer at the time of valuation.	The property stands in the name of Financial Establishment.
6	All that piece and parcel of Rubber plantation Agriculture land property bearing Sy.No.16*1A1-9 measuring an extent of 08-00 Acre-Cents (along with trees of Rubber, coconut and Betel nut), situated at Mudur Village, Byndoor Hobli, Byndoor Taluk, Udupi District. Bounded By: East: Property of Sy. No. 1A1, 1A1-32, portion of Sy.No. 1A1-20, 1A1-21 West: Portion of Sy. No.1A1, 1A1-27 North: Property of Sy. No. 1A1-18, 1A1-19 & Portion of Sy.No. 1A1-20, 1A1-21 South: Property of Sy. No. 1A1-5	Sri Kurian Abraham S/o Abraham	M/s Prosperity Agro India Limited represented by its Director Sri Dattatray S/o Madhav Yadav	SKN-1-01092-2014-15, 15-10-2014	Will be obtained from the authorized valuer at the time of valuation.	The property stands in the name of Financial Establishment.
7	All that piece and parcel of Rubber plantation Agriculture land property bearing Sy.No.16*1A1-34 measuring an extent of 02-00 Acre-Cents (along with trees of Rubber, coconut and Betel nut), situated at Mudur Village, Byndoor Hobli, Byndoor Taluk, Udupi District. Bounded By: East: Property of Sy. No. 1A1-13 West: Property of Sy. No.1A1-9, 1A1-5 North: Property of Sy. No. 1A1-32, 1A1-33 South: Property of Sy. No. 1A1-12	Sri Kurian Abraham S/o Abraham	M/s Prosperity Agro India Limited represented by its Director Sri Dattatray S/o Madhav Yadav	SKN-1-01092-2014-15, 15-10-2014	Will be obtained from the authorized valuer at the time of valuation.	The property stands in the name of Financial Establishment.
8	All that piece and parcel of Rubber plantation Agriculture land property bearing Sy.No.16*1A1-16 measuring an extent of 01-00 Acre-Cents (along with trees of Rubber, coconut and Betel nut), situated at Mudur Village, Byndoor Hobli, Byndoor Taluk, Udupi District. Bounded By: East: Property of Sy. No. 16*1A1-17 West: Property of Sy. No.16*1A1-10 North: Portion of Sy. No. 16*1A1-10 South: Property of Sy. No. 16*1A1	Sri M Kamalesh S/o Late M Krishna Bhat	M/s Prosperity Agro India Limited represented by its Director Sri Dattatray S/o Madhav Yadav	SKN-1-01403-2014-15, 29-11-2014	Will be obtained from the authorized valuer at the time of valuation.	The property stands in the name of Financial Establishment.

RCB raise financial support for victims

Royal Challengers Bengaluru on Saturday announced an enhanced compensation of Rs 25 lakh all the families who lost their lives of their kin in the June 4 stampede that marred the team's maiden IPL title victory celebrations at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium, reports DHNS

In the aftermath of the tragedy, the franchise had announced a financial aid of Rs 10 lakh to each of the 11 families of the deceased. The compensation, an RCB source confirmed, has already reached the families of the victims.

In a second message in three days through their social media handle, the franchise said the financial support was being extended under its new initiative "RCB Cares".

The tragedy unfolded when lakhs of fans thronged the stadium to catch a glimpse of their favourite cricketers, resulting in a chaos that led to the death of 11 people while leaving several others injured.

"Our hearts broke on June 4, 2025. We lost eleven members of the RCB family. They were part of us. Part of what makes our city, our community and our team unique. Their absence will echo in the memories of each one of us," said RCB in a post on 'X' on Saturday.

RCB also said that it was committed to "meaningful action" to honour the memory of the deceased.

"This is also the beginning of a long-term commitment for meaningful action that begins by honouring their memory. Every step forward will reflect what the fans feel, expect, and deserve."

BADMINTON WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

Satwik-Chirag stun nemesis

Indian pair downs Chia-Yik duo to move into semifinal and ensure a medal

PARIS, PTI

Star Indian shuttlers Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty assured India of a medal at the World Championships after defeating their nemesis, Malaysia's two-time Olympic medallists Aaron Chia and Soh Wooi Yik, in the men's doubles quarterfinals here.

A year after the heartbreak in Paris, where they lost to the same pair and missed out on an Olympic medal, the World No. 3 duo produced a commanding 21-12, 21-19 win in 43 minutes to avenge that loss and storm into the semifinals late on Friday night.

It will be Satwik and Chirag's second medal at the prestigious event after their 2022 bronze, extending India's streak of podium finishes at every edition since Jwala Gutta and Ashwini Ponnappa's breakthrough bronze in 2011.

Satwiksairaj Rankireddy (left) and Chirag Shetty celebrate after winning their men's doubles quarterfinal match of the BWF World Championships in Paris on Friday night. BWF

"Feeling really good. It was a rematch of sorts from the Olympics. And I think we finally got some redemption. It was the same court, same arena. A year back exactly. Olympics and now World Championships," Chirag said after the match.

"It's always a pleasure playing against them. We've always had some really tough battles. At the biggest of events. And really happy we could win today."

It will be Satwik and Chirag's second medal at the prestigious event after their 2022 bronze, extending India's streak of podium finishes at every edition since Jwala Gutta and Ashwini Ponnappa's breakthrough bronze in 2011.

The Asian Games champions will next face 11th seeds Chen Bo Yang and Liu Yi of China.

Asked if the Chinese will be underdogs, Satwik said: "Not at all. Playing semi-finals, no underdogs."

Only hours earlier, PV Sindhu's exit in the quarterfinals had denied India a medal in women's singles. By the time Satwik and Chirag walked onto the court, the weight of expectations was unmistakable against opponents who had repeatedly broken Indian hearts.

China's Chen Yufei. AFP

Yufei upsets An

Reigning champion An Seyoung suffered a "bitter" upset against Chen Yufei on Saturday as the Chinese player downed the top seed to set up a world championships final with Japan's Akane Yamaguchi in Paris.

The fourth seed stunningly bested the South Korean 21-15, 21-17 to book her spot in Sunday's title decider.

Yamaguchi had earlier seen off Indonesia's Putri Kusuma Wardani 21-17, 14-21, 21-6 in the other semifinal.

Former world silver medallist Chen capitalised on a rare sluggish start by An to clinch the first game.

A nasty-looking ankle twist suffered by Chen early in the second game looked to have given world No. 1 An a way back into the match, but the Chinese player shook off the pain to clinch a straight-games victory.

How Arshdeep learned to enjoy the boring time

BENGALURU, DHNS

Arshdeep Singh has been spoken about as a potentially potent Test pacer for some time now, given his ability to move the ball and the variety he offers in being a left-armer. But the team combination compulsions and a finger injury during the recent away England series have ensured he will have to wait for his first Test cap. In the City as part of the North Zone team for Duleep Trophy, the Punjab seamer spoke to media about his return to first-class cricket, his chat with senior pacer Mohammed Siraj and his method to remain focussed on the job. Excerpts.

On return to first-class cricket after a long time: Felt really good. Last couple of months was with the (Indian) team, trained a lot, bowled a lot and worked a lot with the strength and conditioning (coach). Bowled a decent long spell, some 15 to 17 overs. It is coming out well. Body felt well. Not many wickets but yes, they will come as well in the future.

On the mindset when you not playing for long: The training is almost the same. You just put in more work when you are not playing. More overs, more strength work, more training. So that whenever you get the chance, you are ready and fully fit to go. The main aim is to stay ready whenever you get a chance. You don't want to miss it, so you give it your all. When you are not playing, you just try to push the limits, try to see what all you can achieve in your skills and physically as well.

On the mental routine to stay in the zone: Mentally, from what I have learnt in the last two months is to enjoy the boring time. Because in Test cricket or any red ball, there is a time when the work gets boring. Like the session after lunch, the ball doesn't do anything... How can you enjoy that? I spoke to Siraj and he told me that when nothing is happening, how you enjoy that phase will tell you how successful you can be in red-ball cricket. He gave me this small tip. I really liked it.

Arshdeep Singh (left) with Mohammed Siraj (centre) and Harshit Rana at the Centre of Excellence Ground in Bengaluru on Saturday. PTI

On the challenges of adapting to white-ball cricket) after red-ball cricket: In the last Test (The Oval), I started training with a white ball. I didn't know that there is a Duleep Trophy match in between. The workload was properly managed. I don't know how many thousands of balls I threw in practice. There was no lack of bowling. At the end of the day, white or red ball, you just play. At the end of the day, you just have to play cricket and you have to enjoy it.

Piastri secures Dutch GP pole

ZANDVOORT (NETHERLANDS), AFP: Oscar Piastri (**in pic**) grabbed pole position on Saturday for the Dutch Grand Prix, locking up the front of the grid with his teammate Lando Norris as McLaren maintained their dominance.

Piastri clocked a lap record time of one minute 8.662 seconds, 0.012 seconds ahead of Norris. It was the fifth pole position of the season for the Australian, who is seeking to extend his nine-point championship lead over Norris.

Norris had had the edge over the Australian in all three practice sessions so far, but Piastri hit back when it counted to give himself an advantage for the race.

Home favourite Max Verstappen — in the unfamiliar position of outsider for his home GP— qualified in third position. Verstappen currently sits 97 points behind Piastri in the championship standings and has admitted that his Red Bull is off the pace this season. He will be hoping that the famously unpredictable weather here circuit will play a role, as he is regarded as a brilliant wet-weather driver.

Aspira clinches Welcome Cup

CHENNAI RESULTS

Deepesh Narredu-trained Aspira, ridden by Yash Nareedu, won the Welcome Cup, the feature event on the opening day of the Madras races on Saturday.

1. Prince Regent Handicap - 1200M: Clean Slate (P Arvinth) MS Deora 1; Crown Angel (Abhishek Mhatre) 2; Avi-othic (Ramnandan) 3; Forest Lake (Alex Rozario) 4; Not Run: Everwin. Wb: 1-1/2, 2-3/4L, Hd. T: 1:15.29. TB: P Krishna. Fav: Crown Angel.

2. Mount Everest Handicap -1200M: Romping Home (Daulat Chabria) Yash Narredu 1; Gold Ride (Farid Ansari) 2; Swarga (N Darshan) 3; Bluemed (RN Darshan) 4; Wb: 1-3/4, 3, 1L. T: 1:11.96. TB: Deepesh Narredu. Fav: Romping Home.

3. Hovercraft Handicap - 1400M: Loch Lomond (Muthiah Ramaswamy) N Darshan 1; Diamond And Pearls (Inayat) 2; Queen Anula (RN Darshan) 3; Element (Brisson) 4; Not Run: Excellent Star. Wb: Lnk, 1, 1-3/4L. T: 1:26.33. TB: Ramanathan. Fav: Red Falcon.

4. Esquire Handicap - 1400M: Balgownie (Mrs Jiby Joji) Inayat 1; Legacy (Yash Narredu) 2; Grenoble (Pavan) 3; Cosette (S Imran) 4; Wb: Snk, 1-1/4, 1-1/2L. T: 1:25.09. TB: J Sebastian. Fav: Legacy

5. Welcome Cup - 1200M: Aspira (Kaliya Perumal) Yash Narredu 1; Golden Marina (N Darshan) 2; Proposed (Farid Ansari) 3; Constant Variable (Pavan) 4; Wb: 1-1/4, 3-1/2L, 3L. T: 1:11.50. TB: Deepesh Narredu. Fav: Aspira.

6. Red Rufus Handicap - 1200M: Bold Show (Muthiah Ramaswamy) Shah Alam 1; Dazzling Princess (Brisson) 2; Empire Of Dreams (MS Deora) 3; Larado (AS Peter) 4; Not Run: Brook Magic. Wb: 1, 5-1/2, 2L. T: 1-12.50. TB: Ramanathan. Fav: Bold Show.

Bengaluru dividends: I race: Rs 71w; 17, 13, 32p; Fc: Rs 192; Q: Rs 76; Shp: Rs 31; Thp: Rs 68; Tri: Rs 618 & 359; Ex: Rs 3,694 & 1,786. **II race:** Rs 10w; Rs 11, 14, 18p; Fc: Rs 23; Q: Rs 26; Shp: Rs 20; Thp: Rs 42; Tri: Rs 96 & 80; Ex: Rs 498 & 240. **III race:** Rs 42w; 14, 42, 48p; Fc: Rs 3,788; Q: Rs 1,554; Shp: Rs 156; Thp: Rs 82; Tri: Rs 7,671 & 4,383; Ex: Rs 50,947 (c/o) & 21,834. **IV race:** Rs 276w; 30, 12, 20p; Fc: Rs 2,420; Q: Rs 721; Shp: Rs 27; Thp: Rs 53; Tri: Rs 8,879 & 15,222; Ex: Rs 1,20,635 & 51,700. **V race:** Rs 21w; 13, 13, 21p; Fc: Rs 53; Q: Rs 25; Shp: Rs 27; Thp: Rs 57; Tri: Rs 282 & 184; Ex: Rs 685 & 210. **VI race:** Rs 40w; 11, 14, 28p; Fc: Rs 324; Q: Rs 209; Shp: Rs 41; Thp: Rs 64; Tri: Rs 1,465 & 1,207; Ex: Rs 4,912 & 809.

Jackpot: Rs 61,744 (4). **Runner-up:** Rs 2,352 (45). **Treble:** Rs 9,952 (1).

Positano for Idar Gold Trophy

PUNE SELECTIONS

Suleiman Attollahi-trained Positano, to be ridden by Sandesh, is fancied to win the Idar Gold Trophy, the feature event of the Pune races to be run over a distance of mile and a half at the races on Sunday.

The first race starts at 1:00 pm.

1. Azzurro Plate - 1100M: Purple Martini 1, Moment Of Madness 2, Samson 3.

2. Jaidev Trophy - 1600M: Jade 1, El Greco 2.

3. Col Kaikushroo Maneckji Bharucha Memorial Trophy - 1400M: Neutralist 1, Giacomo 2, Bluebird 3.

4. Field Marshal Sam Manekshaw Memorial Trophy - 1600M: The Milenium Force 1, Finch 2, Treasure Gold 3.

5. Southern Command Gold Trophy - 1400M: Charlie Brown 1, Exciting 2, Jackson 3.

6. Idar Gold Trophy - 2400M: Positano 1, Duke Of Tuscany 2, Arkadian 3.

7. Shivalik Showers Plate - 1200M: Azrinaz 1, Fighton 2, Fontana 3.

Day's best: Jade. **Jackpot:** 3, 4, 5, 6 & 7. **Treble:** 4, 5 & 6.

Youre Unforgettable for main event

HYDERABAD SELECTIONS

Youre Unforgettable, from the stables of Suleiman Attaollahi and to be ridden by Akshay Kumar, is fancied to win the Coromandel Gromor Deccam Fillies Championship Stakes at the races on Sunday. The first race starts at 12:40 pm.

1. Mahububabad Plate -1100M: Divine Faith 1, Quick Bay Fox 2, Shreshhtha 3.

2. Belager Plate - 1600M: Battle On 1, Amboseli 2, Politics 3.

3. Nearco Plate - 1400M: Normui 1, Misty Night 2, Crimson Rose 3.

4. Pakhal Lake Cup (Div II) - 1200M: Calabasas 1. Star Envied 2, Mexican Wave 3.

5. Hidden Bloom Plate - 1400M: Pleasant Star 1, Decoy 2, Detective 3.

6. Coromandel Gromor Deccam Fillies Championship Stakes - 1600M: Youre Unforgettable 1, Kiss Of Grey 2, Moon Star 3.

7. Pakhal Lake Cup (Div I) - 1200M: Star Of Opera 1, Top In Class 2, Secret Option 3.

Day's best: Calabasas. **Jackpot:** 3, 4, 5, 6 & 7. **I treble:** 2, 3 & 4. **II treble:** 5, 6 & 7.

Sl. No.	Property Details	Seller	Purchaser	Deed Number and Date	Present Market Value	Reasons for Attachment
9	All that piece and parcel of Rubber plantation Agriculture land property bearing Sy.No.16*1A1-25 measuring an extent of 03-00 Acre-Cents (along with trees of Rubber, coconut and Betel nut), situated at Mudur Village, Byndoor Hobli, Byndoor Taluk, Udupi District. Bounded By: East: Property of Sy. No. 16*1A1 West: Property of Sy. No. 16*1A1-13 & 16*1A1-24 North: Property of Sy. No.16*1A1-31 South: Portion of Sy. No. 16*1A1-24 & 16*1A1-6	Sri M Kamalesh S/o Late M Krishna Bhat	M/s Prosperity Agro India Limited represented by its Director Sri Dattatray S/o Madhav Yadav	SKN-1-01403-2014-15, 29-11-2014	Will be obtained from the authorized valuer at the time of valuation.	The property stands in the name of Financial Establishment.
10	All that piece and parcel of Rubber plantation Agriculture land property bearing Sy.No.16*1A1-28 measuring an extent of 02-70 Acre-Cents (along with trees of Rubber, coconut and Betel nut), situated at Mudur Village, Byndoor Hobli, Byndoor Taluk, Udupi District. Bounded By: East: Portion of Sy. No. 16*1A1 West: Portionof Sy. No. 16*1A1 North: Portion of Sy. No.16*1A1 South: Property of Sy. No. 16*1A1-29	Sri M Kamalesh S/o Late M Krishna Bhat	M/s Prosperity Agro India Limited represented by its Director Sri Dattatray S/o Madhav Yadav	SKN-1-01403-2014-15, 29-11-2014	Will be obtained from the authorized valuer at the time of valuation.	The property stands in the name of Financial Establishment.
11	All that piece and parcel of Rubber plantation Agriculture land property bearing Sy.No.16*1A1-32 measuring an extent of 02-00 Acre-Cents (along with trees of Rubber, coconut and Betel nut), situated at Mudur Village, Byndoor Hobli, Byndoor Taluk, Udupi District. Bounded By: East: Property of Sy. No. 16*1A1-33 West: Property of Sy. No. 16*1A1-9 North: Property of Sy. No.16*1A1 South: Property of Sy. No. 16*1A1-34 & 16*1A1-5	Sri M Kamalesh S/o Late M Krishna Bhat	M/s Prosperity Agro India Limited represented by its Director Sri Dattatray S/o Madhav Yadav	SKN-1-01403-2014-15, 29-11-2014	Will be obtained from the authorized valuer at the time of valuation.	The property stands in the name of Financial Establishment.
12	All that piece and parcel of Rubber plantation Agriculture land property bearing Sy.No.26/11 measuring an extent of 13-75.50 Acre-Cents (along with trees of Rubber, coconut and Betel nut), situated at Mudur Village, Byndoor Hobli, Byndoor Taluk, Udupi District. Bounded By: East: Portion of Sy. No. 16 West: Portionof Sy. No. 16 North: Portion of Sy. No.16 South: Property of Sy. No. 28	Sri M Kamalesh S/o Late M Krishna Bhat	M/s Prosperity Agro India Limited represented by its Director Sri Dattatray S/o Madhav Yadav	SKN-1-01403-2014-15, 29-11-2014	Will be obtained from the authorized valuer at the time of valuation.	The property stands in the name of Financial Establishment.

Sd/-
(Anwar Basha)
Deputy Secretary to Government
Revenue Department (Services-1, SSLR & Special Cell)

DIPR/CP/JA/2547/2025-26

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ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ

ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ, ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ ವಿಭಾಗ, ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ.

ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಸಂ: ಐಎಫ್‌ಟಿ-17/ಎಇ-1/2025-26 ದಿನಾಂಕ:-29.08.2025

ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಕೆಪಿಪಿಪಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಉಲ್ಲೇಖ : ಈ ಕಚೇರಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ : ಕಾಅ/ದಾವಿದಾ/ಐ.ಎಫ್.ಟಿ 17/ಎಇ-1/2025-26 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 29.08.2025

ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ ವಿಭಾಗ ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ ವಿಭಾಗ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿನ ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ, ಹರಿಹರ, ಚನ್ನಗಿರಿ, ಜಗಳೂರು ಮತ್ತು ಹೊನ್ನಾಳಿ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕುಗಳಿಗೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದಂತೆ ಕೆಳಗೆ ಸಹಿ ಮಾಡಿರುವವರಿಂದ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ರಾಜ್ಯಪಾಲರ ಪರವಾಗಿ ಕೆಟಿಪಿಪಿ-2000ರನ್ವಯ ಮತ್ತು ಸ್ಯಾಂಡರ್ಡ್ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಡಾಕ್ಯೂಮೆಂಟ್ ನಿಯಮದಂತೆ **3054-03-337-0-05-200 ರಾಜ್ಯ ಹೆದ್ದಾರಿ ನಿರ್ವಹಣೆ ಲೆಕ್ಕಶೀರ್ಷಿಕೆಯಡಿ ಒಟ್ಟು 11 ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಕನಿಷ್ಟ ಮೊತ್ತ 6.45 ಲಕ್ಷ, ಗರಿಷ್ಟ ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ. 49.00 ಲಕ್ಷ, 3054-04-337-1-10-200 ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಮುಖ್ಯ ರಸ್ತೆ ನಿರ್ವಹಣೆ ಲೆಕ್ಕಶೀರ್ಷಿಕೆಯಡಿ ಒಟ್ಟು 25 ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಕನಿಷ್ಟ ಮೊತ್ತ 19.33 ಲಕ್ಷ, ಗರಿಷ್ಟ ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ. 50.00 ಲಕ್ಷ,** ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಕೆಪಿಪಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ನೋಂದಣಿ ಮಾಡಿದ ಅರ್ಹ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ದಾರರಿಂದ ಏಕ ಲಕೋಟೆ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಅನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ಅಂತಿಮ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ವೇಳೆ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 09.09.2025 ಸಂಜೆ 4.00 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ, ಬಿಡ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ 10.09.2025 ಸಂಜೆ 4.30 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಸದರಿ ಕಛೇರಿಯ ಕೆಲಸದ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ (ದೂರವಾಣಿ : 08192 234951, 231530) ಅಥವಾ ವೆಬ್ ಸೈಟ್ https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು.

ವಾಸಾಇ/ಡಿವಿಜಿ/300/ಕೆಎಸ್.ಎಂಸಿಎ/2025-26

ಸಹಿ/- ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು, ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ ವಿಭಾಗ ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ

CITY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL, BHADRAVATHI

ನಂ.ನಸಭ/ಕಾ.ವಿ/ಟೆಂಡರ್/ಇಆರ್/02/2025-26 ದಿನಾಂಕ : 28/08/2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION

(Through Karnataka Government e-procurement Portal)

Item-war Tenders in two-cover system have been invited through e-procurement portal as per Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Rules 1999-2000 and Act 2000 and as per Karnataka Standard Tender Document – KW-1, KW-2 procedures to undertake total 02 package works of **Rs 49.82 lakhs** under Amruth 2.0 Scheme. Eligible tenderers can participate in the tender through e-procurement portal **http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.**

1. The last date for submission of tender forms through e-procurement portal: Date **12.09.2025 upto 5.30 P M. 2.** Date of opening of Technical Tender through e-procurement: **15.09.2025 after 11.00 A M.** through online. If the above date happens to be a general holiday, the next day will be considered. **3.** Date of opening of Financial bid through e-procurement will be intimated later. **4.** Period for completion of works: **Six months. 5.** Regarding tender uploading, contact e-portal helpline No. : 080-22485867 or 080-25501216 and helpdesk email: **hphelpdesk.blr@intarvo.com.** For more details visit website **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** and at the office of the Commissioner, City Municipal Council, Bhadravathi/ Asst. Executive Engineer, City Municipal Council, Bhadravathi. **6.** Any changes/corrigendum will be notified in e-portal only. The tenderers must abide by all the conditions prescribed in the tender documents.

Sd/-
Commissioner, City Municipal Council, Bhadravathi

DIPR/SMG/No.153.08/Zenkar/2025-26

Government of Karnataka

Minor Irrigation and Ground water Development Division, Chitradurga

NO.EE/MI&GWD DIV/CTA/PB2/SHORT TERM E-TENDER NOTIFICATION: 06/2025-26 DATE:28-08-2025.

SHORT TERM E-TENDER NOTIFICATION

K.W.- 4 (TWO COVER SYSTEM)

Item rate tender in Two cover system as per KTPP act-2000 with latest amendments is invited from the eligible contractors registered in KPWD (KW-1,2,3,4) (Minimum amount put to Tender-Rs-3.50 Lakhs and Maximum amount put to Tender Rs-161.32 Lakhs)for the 10 works through KPPP-procurement portal.

Tender documents may be downloaded from KPPP-Portal website :https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in from 28-08-2025 Last Date & Time for enquiries about tende08-09-2025 upto 5.30 P.M., Last Date for submission of Tenders 09-09-2025 upto 4.00 P.M. Opening of Technical bid Date: 10-09-2025 after 4.30 P.M (If possible). Opening of Finanical bid Date 11-09-2025 after 4.30 P.M (If possible). Tenders may be submitted along with EMD and tender fee (Mode of payment should be online only as prescribed in website). Amount mentioned in KPPP-portal is final for the amount put to tender & the E.M.D. Additional Information regarding works may be obtained from the Division Office during office hours & from KPPP-Portal help desk No+91-8046010000+91-8068948777 & support@eprochelpdesk.com

DIPR/CTA/KSMCA/310/2025-26

Sd/- Executive Engineer, MI, Chitradurga

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ

ಹಾಸನ ವೈದ್ಯಕೀಯ ವಿಜ್ಞಾನಗಳ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ, ಹಾಸನ

HASSAN INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES, HASSAN (An Autonomous Institute under the Dept of Medical Education, Government of Karnataka) SRI CHAMARAJENDRA HOSPITAL CAMPUS, HASSAN

Website: https://himshassan.karnataka.gov.in/
Phone/Fax No.08172-231699, 231599,
Email:directorhims@yahoo.com

No: HIMS/TS(1)/ME/Radio/11/2024-25 Date: 25.08.2025

RE-TENDER NOTIFICATION

(Through e-procurement only) https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in HIMS, Hassan, invites tender for supply of Medical Equipments (With Buyback of Old Machines)to Radiology Department of HIMS Teaching Hospital, Hassan, from the manufacturer or authorized dealers in two cover bid system as per KTTP Act-1999. SL.No.Department: Radiology 01)Equipments: Digital Radiography System EMD(Rs.): 1,10,000-00 Qty: 01. 02)Ultrasound machine Qty: 01 EMD(Rs.): 1,00,000-00 The Supplier can have access to e-tender documents from 28.08.2025 through website: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in on payment of transaction fee (non-refundable) as fixed by e-portal. Last date for submission of tender application is up to 29.09.2025 5:00 p.m,. For further details contact the undersigned in the office during working hours or through website: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in

Sd/-Chief Administrative Officer, Hassan Institute of Medical Science, Hassan.

ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ಹಿಸಸಿ/ಹಾಸನ/503/ಕೆಎಸ್.ಎಂಸಿಎ/2025-26

THE FUTURE IS NOW With Kohli all but done, there seems to be an attempt to make Gill the most marketable face, writes Madhu Jawali

Gill - cricket's next big brand

MADHU JAWALI
BENGALURU, DHNS

Consider this. Just three days after the Asia Cup, where the Suryakumar Yadav-led side has more than a reasonable chance of making the final, India will engage themselves in a two-Test series against a visiting West Indies team. Given how formidable India's T20 side has been for a while, it wouldn't have missed the services of Shubman Gill who will have to lead the Test side with little turn-over time. What was the pressing need to include the 25-year-old in the UAE-bound squad? Whatever happened to workload management!

Not only the right-hander was handed a berth, but was elevated as the vice-captain as well. Gill was kept out of the T20 side for almost two years to ensure his focus and energies on Test cricket aren't diluted. What exigency did the selectors see now to ink in Gill?

The answer is more layered and complex, and many factors seem to be at play here. Did he deserve a place in the squad? Hundred per cent. Was his appointment as the vice-captain backed by sound logic? Given his age, his standing as a T20 batter and India's aversion to having multiple captains for different formats, it made perfect sense in the long term. The issue, however, is how prudent is it to rush him into Tests, where he is not only your main batter but captain too?

Virat Kohli. PTI

In the age of social media, transforming top athletes into influencers to leverage popularity among their fan-base has become an essential exercise for brands and broadcasters. Virat Kohli is a prime example of this. His gun batting, carefully-curated aggressive on-field image and undisputed standing as the leader of the Indian team made him the most marketable cricketer in the world. Over the years, he became a brand himself. With the 36-year-old's international career all but over, cricket needs another face that ensures eye-balls for broadcasters and bums on seats in stadiums.

Gill appears the most plausible personality to replace Kohli. He is young, good looking, a future batting great and has potential to lead India for a long time to come across all three formats. A perfect cocktail to make him darling of brands. So, with all things being equal, there will be no effort spared to make him part of every major international event.

"In the world of cricket, you always have a six-year cycle... You have a rising star and a setting star," Harish Bojoor, a Bengaluru-based business & brand-strategy specialist, tells DHoS. "So, for every setting star, you need a rising star. So, if theoretically, let's say (MS) Dhoni is a setting star, then you need a replacement for Dhoni. And if Kohli is a setting star, you need a replacement for him. So, Gill is aspiring to replace and his positioning seems to be very squarely aimed at the position occupied by Kohli.

"You know, the media... Particularly television cameras and a little bit of print camera, they all follow the eyeballs. So, the important thing is the game of the cricketer is the most important. Suddenly, three matches back to back, you see Gill doing a fantastic job. You tend to pitch your bets on him. And that's exactly what the media does, place the bets on this rising star and aim to capitalise on the eyeballs that go to the star onto the media. It's an umbilical effort. It is some symbiotic effort of both media and the persona. The persona needs the media and the media needs the persona. So, this symbiotic relationship is what spurs the entire movement."

By anointing Gill as the "Prince", the legitimate heir to the throne occupied by the "King" (Kohli), various media platforms had already done the necessary ground work. But, Bijoor notes, brands place their bets on a winning horse. They don't blindly pick a player or a celebrity and promote him or her.

"Very few of these efforts (turning a player into brand) can be forced because today media organisations are very, very tight. And they have their own way of keeping a track of who's promoting who. And I've known people in the media being told that you're pushing the star too much. And sometimes the needle of suspicion is pointed to that particular media person. So, it can't happen now. Possibly in the old days it could have happened, but I've not been in industry during those days. But today it can't happen. Water finds its own level. And integrity finds its own level."

Bijoor gives the example of former pacer S Sreesanth of a failed effort.

"Sreesanth, at a point of time, was boosted up to a particular level and then came his fall. And post his fall, there were attempts to kind of do something (to lift his image), but they didn't click."

With many celebrities, including a few cricketers, in his roster, Bijoor senses a touch of impurity in today's social-media driven branding exercise. He believes the passion displayed towards cricketers feels more engineered than spontaneous.

"As a kid, maybe a nine or 10-year old, I used to look up to be a cricket captain called Bishan Singh Bedi," he says. "And Bedi was promoted like nobody's business by the people themselves, by the media. People used to be much more passionate about stars for a different reason. It wasn't for money or the glamour, but for pure cricket. Now, that has changed. See, Bedi was respected for whatever he did with the ball. And when he was dropped from the team, people used to protest -- no Bedi, no Test. That is my first memory of a 10-year-old kid who used to love cricket.

"That was passion. And that was not prompted. But today pure passion has become impure. Today, it is an engineered passion by social media in a big way. You see social media efforts across Insta, across any of the other handles that you see. The idea is to really try and create hangama (make-believe situation) and give wings and tails to it. This happens across categories. In the old days, it used to be complete consumer love translating into brand persona. Today, it is the other way round. The brand persona engineers the persona for himself or herself. And social media creates that aura. And there's a certain degree of hollowness in it."

Shubman Gill. PTI

Gill's rise is undeniable, and his potential seems limitless. But carrying the weight of being India's captain, premier batter and next big brand is no small task. Kohli bore that triple burden for years with unflinching focus and dedication. If Gill, who has shown his head is firmly on his shoulders, can keep his attention on performance, he has every chance to follow a similar path.

Mehak bags silver, Lovepreet settles for bronze

AHMEDABAD, PTI: India's Mehak Sharma won a silver medal in women's +86kg category while Lovepreet Singh settled for a bronze in men's +110kg on the concluding day of the Commonwealth Weightlifting Championships here on Saturday.

Mehak lifted a total of 253kg (110kg in snatch + 143kg in clean and jerk) to end in second place at the Veer Savarkar Sports Complex.

Samoa's Iuniarra Sipaia won the gold after lifting 261kg (111kg snatch+150kg clean and jerk), while Commonwealth Games medallist Mary Taiwo Osijo of Nigeria bagged the bronze with a 231kg total lift (103kg snatch+128kg clean and jerk).

Mehak started by lifting 103kg in snatch before improving to 107kg on her second attempt and 110kg on the third.

In clean and jerk, the Indian began with 130kg and then went up to 137kg on her second attempt. However, Mehak produced her best showing on her third attempt as she lifted 143kg to finish with a total of 253kg.

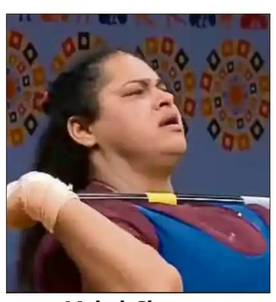
In the men's +110kg category, India's Lovepreet claimed the bronze with a total lift of 380kg (175kg in snatch + 205kg in clean and jerk) behind New Zealander David Liti (397kg; 177kg snatch+220kg clean and jerk).

Commonwealth Games gold medallist Sanele Mao of Samoa won gold in the event with a total of 401kg (181kg snatch+220kg clean and jerk).

In the youth men's +94kg category, India's Tushar Chaudhary finished first in a two-man field, with a total lift of 285kg (125kg+160kg), ahead of Nejitha Nethsahan of Sri Lanka who lifted 197kg (97kg+100kg).

India ended the championships with a total of 13 medals in the senior category -- three gold, seven silver and three bronze.

On the first day, Tokyo Olympics silver medallist Mirabai Chanu won gold.


Mehak Sharma

TENNIS US OPEN

Djokovic fights past Norrie

Sabalenka avenges last year's defeat; Raducanu, Paolini shown exit door

NEW YORK, AGENCIES

Carlos Alcaraz and Novak Djokovic edged closer to a semifinal showdown at the US Open on Friday while Aryna Sabalenka avenged the memory of a bitter defeat to power into the last 16.

Spanish second seed Alcaraz and Serbian legend Djokovic both booked their passage into the last 16 with comfortable victories and now stand just two wins away from meeting in the last four.

Alcaraz breezed past Italian 32nd seed Luciano Darderi in emphatic fashion, winning 6-2, 6-4, 6-0 on the Arthur Ashe Stadium while Djokovic, who is chasing a record 25th Grand Slam singles title, took care of Britain's Cam Norrie 6-4, 6-7 (4/7), 6-2, 6-3.

Alcaraz's one-hour 44-minute victory sends the 2022 US Open champion into a meeting on Sunday against France's Arthur Rinderknech, who defeated compatriot Benjamin Bonzi 4-6, 6-3, 6-3, 6-2.

Alcaraz needed a medical timeout while leading 5-4 in the second set for treatment on his right knee, but later said he had no injury concerns.

Djokovic, 38, meanwhile, shook off a back problem for his win over Briton Cam Norrie 6-4, 6-7 (4/7), 6-2, 6-3, which sends him into a fourth-round tie against German veteran Jan-Lennard Struff.

Djokovic's fourth round opponent Struff dealt a blow to American hopes of a first home US Open champion since 2003 with a 6-4, 6-3, 7-6 (9/7) defeat of popular 17th seed Frances Tiafoe.

Novak Djokovic celebrates after beating Cameron Norrie (not in picture) in the third round of the US Open. REUTERS

Tiafoe's exit came after another disappointing loss for US fans, with big-serving Ben Shelton departing the Louis Armstrong Stadium in tears after being forced to retire after the fourth set of his match against French veteran Adrian Mannarino.

In the women's draw, meanwhile, world number one and defending champion Sabalenka avenged her 2021 US Open semi-final defeat to Leylah Fernandez with a straight-sets victory over the Canadian

Sabalenka was left distraught after being upset by the unheralded Fernandez four years ago with a place in what would have been her first Grand Slam final there for the taking.

But the 27-year-old from Belarus made sure there was no repeat on Friday, seeing off Fernandez 6-3, 7-6 (7/2). Sabalenka's victory saw her extend her incredible winning streak in tie-breaks to 18.

Sabalenka faces unseeded Spaniard Cristina Bucsa in the next round.

Raducanu exits

There was another upset in the late game on Arthur Ashe, with Taylor Townsend bundling out Russian fifth seed Mirra Andreeva 7-5, 6-2.

Elsewhere, Kazakh ninth seed Elena Rybakina outclassed Britain's Emma Raducanu, winning 6-1, 6-2 to move into a last 16 tie against 2023 Wimbledon champion Marketa Vondrousova, a 7-6 (7/4), 6-1 victor over Italian seventh seed Jasmine Paolini.

In other women's draw matches, American fourth seed Jessica Pegula comfortably defeated Victoria Azarenka 6-1, 7-5 to reach the fourth round, where she will face compatriot Ann Li.

Indian duo advances

Indian men's doubles pair of Anirudh Chandrasekar and Vijay Prashanth advanced to the second round of the US Open after upsetting eighth-seeded local favourites Christian Harrison and Evan King in three sets.

Chandrasekar and Prashanth won 3-6, 6-3, 6-4 in one hour and 42 minutes, riding on a far superior first and second serves. Chandrasekar and Prashanth will take on Australia's John-Patrick Smith and Brazil's Fernando Romboli in the second round.

Another Indian pair of Rithvik Bollipalli and N. Balaji, however, lost their opening-round match here. Bollipalli and Balaji fought hard but fell short against Bart Stevens and Vasil Kirkov, bowing out 6-3, 6-7(10), 4-6.

Key results of third round (prefix denotes seeding): Men: 7-Novak Djokovic (Srb) bt Cameron Norrie (Gbr) 6-4, 6-7 (4/7), 6-2, 6-3; 2-Carlos Alcaraz (Esp) bt 32-Luciano Darderi (Ita) 6-2, 6-4, 6-0; Adrian Mannarino (Fra) bt 6-Ben Shelton (Usa) 3-6, 6-3, 4-6, 6-4 - retired.
Women: 1-Aryna Sabalenka (Blr) bt 31-Leylah Fernandez (Can) 6-3, 7-6 (7/2); 9-Elena Rybakina (Kaz) bt Emma Raducanu (Gbr) 6-1, 6-2; Marketa Vondrousova (Cze) bt 7-Jasmine Paolini (Ita) 7-6 (7/4), 6-1;
Barbora Krejcikova (Cze) bt 10-Emma Navarro (Usa) 4-6, 6-4, 6-4

Blues blank Fulham amid VAR row

United grab first win; Spurs suffer at home to Cherries

LONDON, AFP

Chelsea took advantage of VAR controversy to beat Fulham 2-0 as the visitors were left to rue a series of costly decisions awarded against them at Stamford Bridge on Saturday.

Enzo Maresca's side was fortunate not to fall behind in the west London derby when Fulham were harshly denied a first-half opener. Josh King's strike was ruled out after VAR deemed Rodrigo Muniz's accidental collision with Trevoh Chalobah was worthy of a foul.

As if that wasn't infuriating enough for Fulham boss Marco Silva, Joao Pedro put Chelsea ahead beyond the scheduled eight minutes of stoppage time at the end of the first half.

Adding to Silva's anger, Chelsea's second goal was also VAR-influenced as Ryan Sessegnon was adjudged to have handled a cross, leading to Enzo Fernandez converting from the penalty spot. After drawing with Crystal Palace and routing West Ham 5-1, Chelsea's third successive Premier League clash with a London rival extended their unbeaten start to three games.

Fernandes lifts United

Bruno Fernandes eased the pressure on Manchester United boss Ruben Amorim as his last-gasp penalty sealed a 3-2 win over Burnley, while Thomas Frank suffered his first Premier League defeat as Tottenham manager on Saturday.

Just days after a humiliating League Cup second-round loss at fourth-tier Grimsby, United were on the brink of another damaging result after promoted Burnley twice came from behind.

Amorim had admitted after the Grimsby debacle that he sometimes thinks about quitting and often hates his players.

His mood would have been even darker before United captain Fernandes came to the rescue seven minutes into stoppage time.

Result: Chelsea: 2 (Joao Pedro 45+9th, Enzo Fernandez 56th) bt Fulham: 0; Manchester United: 3 (Josh Cullen OG 27th, Bryan Mbuemo 57, Bruno Fernandes 90+7th) bt Burnley: 2 (Lyle Foster 55th, Jaidon Anthony 66); Sunderland 2 (Enzo Le Fee 82th, Wilson Isidor 90+6) bt Brentford 1 (Thiago 77th); Tottenham: 0 lt to Bournemouth: 1 (Evanilson 5th); Wolves: 2 (Hwang Hee-Chan 21th, Joao Gomes 79th) lt to Everton: 3 (Beto 7th, Alfred Ndiaye 33th, Kiernan Dewsbury-Hall 55th)

Chelsea's Enzo Fernandez celebrates scoring their second goal against Fulham at Stamford Bridge in London on Saturday. REUTERS

Sakshya Santhosh (left) and Sharvil Karambelkar pose with their spoils.

Sharvil, Sakshya take home titles

BENGALURU, DHNS: Sharvil Karambelkar produced a gritty performance to capture the Hopes Boys title at the seventh State-ranking table tennis tournament in Belagavi on Saturday.

In the corresponding girls' final, Sakshya Santhosh outclassed Nandhana Bandi 11-9, 11-9, 11-8 to claim the crown.

In a see-saw final among boys, Sharvil fought back from losing the opening game to defeat Aaryan Menon 9-11, 11-3, 12-10, 9-11, 11-4. The contest swung dramatically, with both players trading momentum before Sharvil sealed the decider with a commanding display of attacking strokes.

Results: Final: Hopes boys: Sharvil Karambelkar bt Aaryan Menon 9-11, 11-3, 12-10, 9-11, 11-4.
Hopes girls: Sakshya Santhosh bt Nandhana Bandi 11-9, 11-9, 11-8.

Ahlawat in top-10 at halfway mark

CRANS MONTANA, PTI: India's Veer Ahlawat put together one of his best rounds of the season with a 6-under 64 that gave him a chance to earn a top-10 finish at the Omega European Masters here.

Ahlawat, who had a 69 in the first round of the weather-hit DP World Tour event, faced multiple suspensions at the Crans-sur-Sierre Golf Course.

At 7-under 133 for two rounds, Ahlawat was tied 10th at the halfway stage.

However, compatriot Shubhankar Sharma missed the cut despite producing a first round of even par and a second round of 2-under 68.

Ahlawat produced a strong second round performance and shot 6-under 64 to take his 36 hole total to seven under par.

Ahlawat started his second round on the back nine and put together four birdies in five holes between the 11th and 15th holes.

Englishman Matt Wallace with 12 under par.

Vinod-Shailendra seize lead

BENGALURU, DHNS

Team Ashva's Vinod Singh and Shailendra Singh seized the overall lead on the penultimate day of the 14th Dakshin Dare cross-country rally with a clean and calculated drive in Anantapur (AP) on Saturday.

The Indore duo, piloting a 1300cc Maruti Gypsy prepared by Dr Perk Customs, capitalised on a misstep by overnight leaders Adith KC and co-driver Harish KN. The Thrissur-Bengaluru pair from Team VM Motorsports lost significant time after a brief off-route excursion, dropping them to third overall.

Holding steady in second place are Chikkamagaluru's Aieman Ahmed and Bengaluru co-driver Sagar M (Team VM Motorsports), who delivered another day of controlled aggression. The stage win for the day was claimed by Kolkata's Raunak Jana and Uday Ganguli of Bro's Racing, who set a blistering time of 46 minutes, 27 seconds on the 33.44km selective section.

Team VM Motorsports demonstrated strong depth, with four of its five cars occupying positions in the overall top five.

Sevilla sign former Chelsea skipper Azpilicueta

MADRID, AGENCIES: Sevilla signed experienced former Spain and Chelsea defender and free agent Cesar Azpilicueta **(in pic)** on Friday after the Champions League winner was released by Atletico Madrid.

The 36-year-old defender, who played at three World Cups, has joined Sevilla on a one-year deal with a potential extra season, the La Liga outfit said. Azpilicueta played eleven seasons at Chelsea between 2012-2023 racking up 508 appearances, winning the Premier League twice and the European Champions League.

He was also the captain of Chelsea when they defeated Manchester City 1-0 in the Champions League final in 2021.

Tottenham sign Simons

Tottenham signed Netherlands attacking midfielder Xavi Simons from Leipzig on Friday, making up for the club's failure to bring in Eberechi Eze last week, following his move to Arsenal.

Chelsea completed the signing of Manchester United outcast Alejandro Garnacho on Saturday for a reported £40 million fee.

EMPIRE OF THE MIND

What moral imagination means in our polarised times

Gurucharan Gollerkeri
The former civil servant enjoys traversing the myriad spaces of ideas, thinkers, and books

In our fractious age, it has become easy to believe that we are fundamentally irreconcilable. Lines are drawn with alarming speed – between left and right, us and them, believer and non-believer, citizen and migrant, patriot and traitor. Political rhetoric tightens like a noose. Social media converts disagreement into a performance. Even within families and friendships, ideological lines quietly harden, calcifying into silence or rupture. We are living not just in an age of disagreement, but of *unseeing* – a refusal, or perhaps an inability, to imagine the moral world of another.

It is in this context that we must return to an undervalued but urgent faculty: moral imagination. Coined by Edmund Burke in the late 18th century, the term originally signified the capacity to envision ethical life in concrete forms – through customs, institutions, and inherited practices. But in more recent usage, especially through thinkers like Martha Nussbaum, moral imagination has come to mean the ability to inhabit another's experience emotionally and intellectually. It is what allows us to perceive others not as categories, or threats, but as fully human – messy, yearning, and vulnerable – like ourselves.

In a world saturated by binary thinking, cultivating this capacity may be one of the most radical acts we can undertake. But here is the paradox: for all the noise, something vital is missing. *Listening*. Not just passively, but actively – listening with the openness that comes from moral curiosity. What drives the person I disagree with? What are they afraid of? What stories shaped their convictions? What grief or aspiration animates their anger? These questions do not excuse injustice, but they illuminate its human context. Without this middle space of moral imagination, we risk not only misunderstanding others – we risk misunderstanding ourselves. We become prisoners of our own positions, unable to evolve or question. Our identity collapses into ideology, and our empathy narrows to the circle of those who agree with us. How, then, do we cultivate this fragile faculty? The most enduring teachers are not politicians or pundits – they are novelists, poets, and dramatists.

A great novel invites us to dwell inside the consciousness of a stranger. When we read Toni Morrison or Dostoevsky, Premchand, or Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, we are asked to feel with people we might otherwise fear, dismiss, or simply overlook. Literature slows us down. It disrupts certainty. It makes us linger in ambiguity. It refuses to resolve contradictions too quickly – and in doing so, it mirrors life itself. Reading widely is not a luxury; it is a civic act. It forms citizens who are not just literate, but *imaginatively literate* – people who are capable of resisting the impulse to dehumanise. In fact, the decline of literary reading in public life is not merely a cultural loss; it is a political one.

Philosophy, too, is an ally of the moral imagination. Not because it tells us what to think, but because it teaches us *how* to think – how to slow down, interrogate assumptions, and hold ideas to the light. Socratic dialogue, for instance, is built on a profound ethical premise: that the other may know something we do not. The opposite of ideological rigidity. It is an invitation to learn, and therefore to change. In a time when public discourse rewards performance over reflection, the quiet courage of philosophical doubt becomes a moral stance. Philosophy reminds us that disagreement need not be war. It can be inquiry. It can even be intimacy – the kind that sharpens understanding rather than blunting it. And then, there is silence.

In an age of constant commentary, silence may be the most undervalued moral tool. Not the silence of indifference, but the silence of humility. The kind that pauses before judging. That waits before responding. That listens beyond the words. Silence is what allows us to be moved – by someone else's pain, by the beauty of an idea we did not originate, by the terror of being wrong. In silence, we confront the limits of our own perspective. We become porous again.

It is in such silence that the moral imagination is most alive. Cultivating the moral imagination is not to retreat from justice, it is to *deepen* it. True justice begins not in courts or parliaments, but in the recognition of the other as fully human. And this recognition cannot be legislated – it must be imagined. In our classrooms, we must teach not just critical thinking but *empathetic* thinking. In our public discourse, we must reward not just eloquence but humility. In our personal lives, we must practice the art of listening, even when it hurts. The work of rehumanisation is slow, and often invisible. It does not go viral. But it is the quiet harbinger of peace.

Let us inhabit it, and invite others in.

GADFLY

HEIs: A moment of reckoning

Since we are approaching Teachers' Day, this writer would like to make a small appeal to our Central government and state governments (since education is a State subject). Mr Mayhem, US President Donald Trump, is hating on his pet peeves, the US liberal intellectual class and Higher Education Institutions (HEIs), almost each fortnight. He's wrecking the intake of talent (and monies) that US HEIs are globally known for. Large sections of students at these institutions are international.

The era which India and other countries identified with 'brain drain' looks somewhat set to end. Spiralling admission costs, plummeting financial aid, cratering returns on investments in terms of employability, restrictive visa regimes and post-education work opportunities are some of the factors militating against students going abroad in the current international climate. Atop this sits Trump. America may account for an extreme current instance, but more or less the same climate prevails in other HEI destinations like Canada, Britain, Australia, New Zealand, and Germany. So, what can countries like India do about this?

If only India had China-like dogged vision and intent, this situation would be a windfall to turbocharge Indian HEIs, both private and public. Yes, to some degree, the National Education Policy of 2020 tilts our imperatives in that direction, but Trump has created a situation that calls for immediate, yet considered actions from the Centre and states. At the moment, India is sitting on a not insignificant pool of talent across higher education fields that would typically aim to fly away. India also has not insignificant numbers of internationally trained returnees, mostly scholars, researchers, teachers, idea generators, and academics with undergraduate educational bearings in India. So, there's a burgeoning set of young people who want to learn more and another slightly older set that could possibly benefit higher education, either in terms of research, or teaching, or both.

Rahul Jayaram
teaches at the School of Film, Media and Creative Arts, R V University, Bengaluru
@rahjayaram

It is displeasing to either wait to burnish your talent or return to a home environment having honed talent elsewhere and not find the apposite nest for its expression and enhancement. Our respective governments must act soon to tap into a restive student/young scholar demographic that increases by the day, and present a workable roadmap. India is well behind the higher educational curve vis-a-vis its much more strategically thoughtful neighbours. Fleet-footed China is earning international accolades as high-profile international scholars partially live and work there. Southeast Asian nations such as Singapore, Malaysia, and Vietnam have made strong strides to attract and retain international talent, and usher in pools of its youth into higher and/or primary education careers. The Gulf Cooperation Council countries established swathes of urban areas for western university campuses to get set in locations like Doha and Dubai.

Lest you mistake me, I don't want to preach the mantra of internationalisation for its own sake. What they signal is concerted intent to make education more attractive, and help strengthen and nurture strong, good, practices and temperaments for the long-term future of these countries. Well before their attempts to internationalise education, even a rudimentary scrutiny over budgetary spends on education in these countries over the last 30 years displays a marked intent to bolster it and lay a solid foundation for the future of its respective youth. Chinese companies such as DeepSeek have jolted information technology and Artificial Intelligence spheres. When they shook early this year, Indian captains of industry again rued why Indian companies and institutions were unable to generate such ideas. In my view, that moment was also a triumph for Chinese HEI investment. Now, Trump is closing the door. While solidifying its foundations, India must open its own for others, but carefully, thoughtfully, and quickly.

ILLUSIONS AND DELUSIONS

The hype and hard truths of cryptocurrency

For over a decade, cryptocurrencies have dazzled the public imagination – a heady mix of technological innovation, financial independence, and the tantalising prospect of outsized returns. The decentralised digital currency using a new type of data – the blockchain, a distributed ledger that records transactions across many computers – eliminated dependence on any single person or central authority. The entire network owns and certifies the system, which rewards participants with auto-generated by-products, tokens or bitcoins. It promised anonymity, transparency and freedom from intermediaries. Soon, it became a rage. The potential was revolutionary and could/would seemingly allow decentralised maintenance of a variety of records.

However, in practice, the blockchain's very strength – its ability to remove intermediaries and lower costs – made it unattractive to the powerful institutions it hoped to reform. Banks, lawyers, payment processors, and notaries make money by being trusted third parties. The more the trust, the higher the fees. Lower costs destroy their business models, earnings, and salary structures. Though several promising pilot projects did start, none seem to have flourished.

However, tokens caught the market's fancy. Once the rewards for running the system, they are now its only needed product with an allure that has pivoted from utility to speculation. Today, several thousands of cryptocurrencies are available in a variety of forms: Ethereum, Solana, Dogecoin, Stablecoin, etc. At least 40 cryptos have market caps exceeding $1 billion and interestingly, without apparent underlying profitability or even income streams or business models. Some offer new functionalities like smart contracts, but most are riding on hype, trading momentum and volumes, and retail optimism. Interestingly, more than 2,000 cryptos have already failed, taking billions in investor wealth along with them and revealing how fragile infrastructures can be if hype overruns regulation.

Decentralisation doesn't, therefore, guarantee durability or security, and utility doesn't always translate into volume. Yet, a remarkable allure exists, though investor information available for evaluating risk is far below what is available for stock/commodity market investments. The crypto market values have quadrupled or more, post 2020, in contrast to Indian equities or the US S&P 500, which have merely doubled alongside. Historically, speculative booms anchored primarily on belief, sans fundamentals, rarely last, however solid and apparently self-evident the initial allure.

TCA Ranganathan
The former chairman of the Export Import Bank of India is a banker with a theory of everything
@tcartca

Admittedly, support for the belief in digital money is also coming from central banks, but with a technological twist. Bitcoin was visualised as a philosophical statement, to reimagine the foundations of trust in financial systems. However, now, the attempt is to reinforce State authority and regulatory compliance via tightly controlled programming. It is less about rebellion and more about infrastructure and avoidance of system leakages. The State's attention towards tokens was brought about by Facebook's attempt to popularise Libra, a global stablecoin pegged to a basket of currencies. This threatened to bypass national currencies and allow transactions outside formal banking systems and undermine State controls.

China was the first to start a pilot project to create alternatives to the US Dollar for cross-border settlements. The initial ideation was attractive. Central Bank Digital Currencies (CBDCs) can, if popular, enable instant and direct settlement of transactions 24/7 and reduce remittance/transaction costs by eliminating intermediaries (card networks, payment processors, and even bank branches) while enabling tax compliance and tighter enforcement of anti-money laundering laws. This pushed other countries, including the US, EU, India, Japan, and Nigeria, to explore CBDCs as a strategic safeguard.

However, in a combative, sanction-prone world, securing interoperability for national tokens could be challenging. Hence, at the interfaces, earlier challenges faced with blockchains will resurface. Also, digital money increases vulnerability to cyber- and chip-based attacks. In an age of AI and quantum computing, these vulnerabilities may prove costly. Digital innovations will undoubtedly shape the future, but some innovations may turn out to be red herrings, diverting energy, skills, and focus away from endeavours to secure enduring progress in technological manufacturing, materials efficiency, and supply chain resilience.

China, post-Covid, has been differentiating between soft tech and hard tech. Even highly successful ed-tech and e-commerce companies like Alibaba (and its once iconic founder Jack Ma), New Oriental, and Yuanfudao faced severe State ire. All individual/corporate activity in crypto systems is banned. Several tech firms hastily repurposed themselves. India, as per media reports, continues to rank globally as one of the preeminent centres despite experiencing high taxation. Perhaps more active incentivisation of alternative areas of digital and technological innovation may be needed to counter the crypto's allure.

STATE, MARKET, SOCIETY

Harnessing the power triad

How can India hold its own during a time of strong geopolitical winds? There are many opinions on how we should be resilient.

However, the interest in this question has so far provoked only a uniform response. Most opinions point to three options – we should use this as an opportunity to reexamine our global friendships and make new alliances, initiate another round of reforms to liberalise the economy, and loosen the public purse and lending rules to boost domestic consumption. Trim the fat and tone up muscle, as former NITI Aayog head Amitabh Kant put it.

These things might help, and some proposed reforms were probably necessary even before we were provoked by Trump. But there is something else we can do, which would be far more powerful than technical and regulatory fixes.

For too long, we have lived with the idea that when it comes to development, the State must lead, and market and society must align or follow. It is quite easy to see that Nehru made this more or less explicit in his time at the helm, but even decades later, we continue with the framework. Some might even say that things have become more asymmetrically skewed.

Compounding this, we have endured the misconception that while national and state governments are important, local governance is just an administrative matter. Until the early 1990s, we didn't even have a legal framework for local councils in most parts of the country, and since then, we have mostly not implemented the framework. Many states don't even bother to hold local elections on time. All this despite the fact that people care quite about their immediate surroundings and public services.

Ashwin Mahesh
A social entrepreneur, founder of Mapunity and LVBL, and co-founder, Lithium, wakes up with hope for the city and society, goes to bed with a sigh
@ashwinmahesh

These twin missteps have greatly slowed development. Critically, we are more vulnerable to the uncertainties of geopolitics. We have put too much faith in the centralised, top-down State, instead of giving ourselves a range of options. That has left us no choice but to embrace the flag and play victim, instead of looking at those who made this mistake.

In contrast, many of the countries we compete with have figured out how to leverage State, market and society into a concerted swarm. Some of them do it by force, like China does, but most others do it by letting each of these spheres be all it can be. On the other hand, the Russias and the Turkeys of the world are clearly sidelining the capacities of society by force and the market through cronyism. The net result is a reduced capacity to keep up with nations that harness the power of all three.

We watch with mirth and scorn when liberal talk show hosts blast Trump, sometimes in the harshest language laced with profanity, or when Elon Musk, after disagreeing with him publicly, threatened to oppose his party in the next election. We are relieved when judges around that country stall the US President's oddball executive decisions. We even hope that such opposition might eventually rein him in. But we rarely pause to ask if such things are possible in India.

The Indian situation is not as extreme as that of Russia or Turkey, but we're also not actively promoting a peer relationship between State, market and society. If we choose to do that now, it will signal confidence about the future by a method that invites more and more people to decide and steer it. There really is strength in numbers. We just have to believe that.

Merely tweaking the business environment will not produce such an equal relationship. What the State giveth, it can also take away. Or just dilute – it is also noteworthy that the drumbeat of Ease of Doing Business has not meant much to the majority of businesses. Nor has there ever been any commitment to improving the Ease of Citizens Engaging with Government. There's a lesson in that for all those joining the reform chorus.

JUDGEMENT DAY

Statute v Morality: The complex case of Speluncean Explorers

Nigam Nuggehalli
is a law professor who thinks that the law is too important to be left to the lawyers
nsnigam@gmail.com

Here, I discuss a case that was never decided, because the parties to the case did not exist, except in the imagination of a Harvard Law School professor. Lon Fuller, a professor of legal philosophy, used a fictional case to illustrate the nature of the law. The general public is aware of the law as a set of rules that regulate our conduct but beyond that, there is little appreciation of the law's characteristics. People outside legal academia rarely think about these matters and yet it matters a lot, because the law impacts all of us. The Speluncean Explorers case is a good gateway for everyone, not just lawyers, to appreciate the mysteries of the law.

Fuller begins with a story about a group of people who decide to explore caves (known as spelunking). They run into deep trouble when there is a cave-in and the speluncean explorers are trapped. Matters reach such a sorry pass that the explorers kill one of their mates out of hunger. After they are rescued, the explorers are tried for murder.

The law in the fictional state they are tried in has the following text: 'Whoever shall wilfully take the life of another shall be punished by death.' The case goes before multiple judges and each of them provides a ruling. Through these rulings, Fuller tries to show how various approaches to the nature of the law can affect judicial decisions. Each of the decisions shows a particular legal philosophy. The case, therefore, manages to achieve two objectives: it showcases the key claims and problems with each philosophical position. It also shows how these are not just abstract, ivory tower issues but issues with which judges struggle. Depending on the kind of legal philosophy a judge adopts, the accused would be hanged or set free.

One of the judges believes that the statute left no option to the judges but to convict the accused. The law is whatever a statute says it is, regardless of what morality requires. The speluncean explorers were in a situation where desperate hunger overcame reason, but the law is the law. His brother judge disagrees; he believes that one ought to adopt a purposive construction of statutes. The purpose of the homicide statute is to deter murderous acts. Since the explorers were in a situation where deterrence would not work, the homicide legislation should be interpreted to exclude them from the charge of murder. A purposive interpretation looks at the values (ethical and moral) behind a statute and thus leads to a closer connection between law and morality.

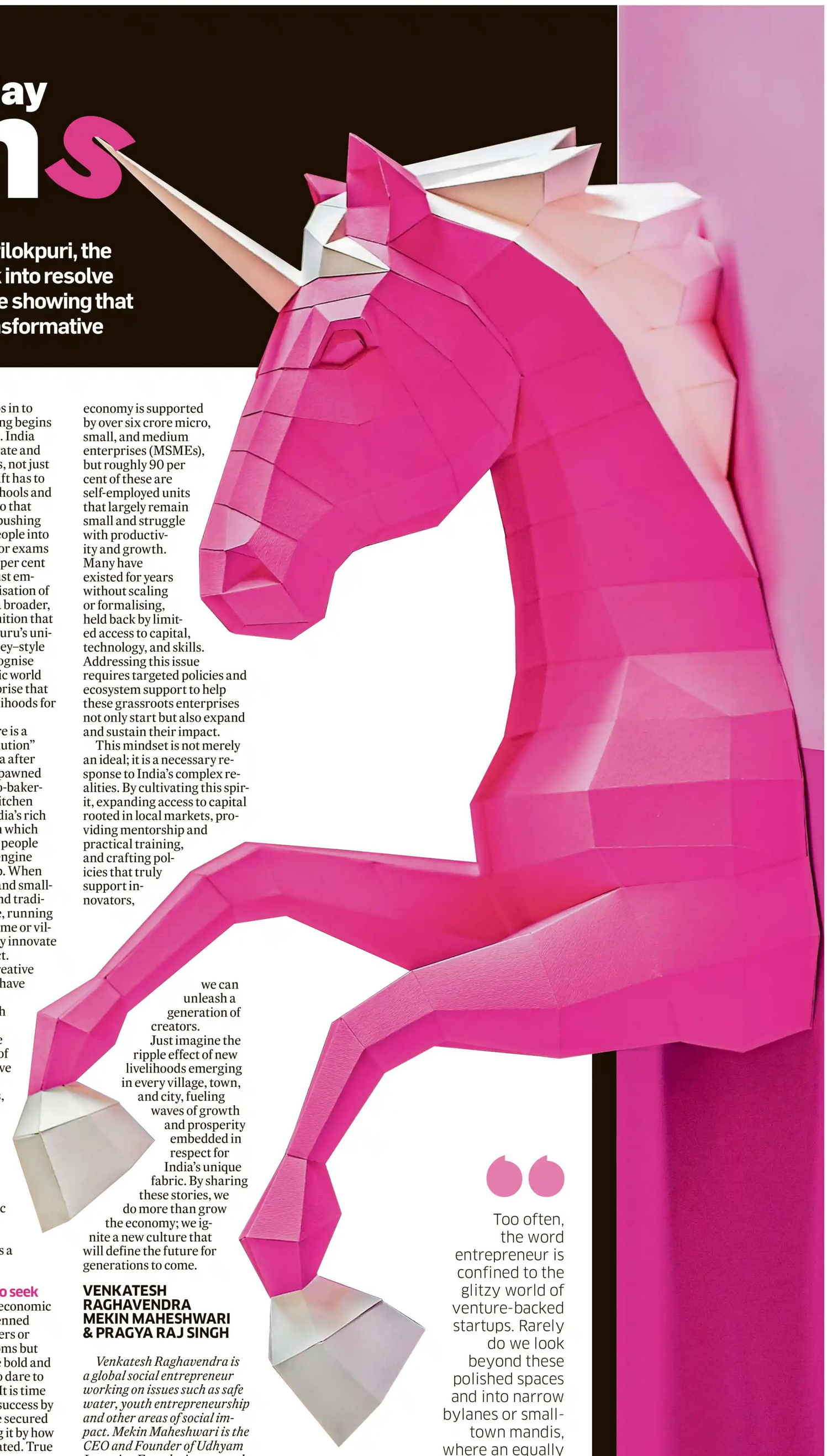
Another judge, a realist, believes that the entire discussion is bunkum. Except in certain extremely limited cases, realist judges are against the idea of discerning rules established in past legislation and case law and then applying such rules mechanically to the facts of the cases before them. According to the realists, judges can look beyond formal legal sources in coming to a decision. In this case, the realist judge looks at public opinion and gossip in coming to his decision to acquit the accused. As is clear by now, the nature of the law is not an easy matter and because judges have different opinions on it, the law's requirements are in a state of constant contestation.

In the end, the Speluncean Explorers case is about the standards people apply when they perform the judicial function. Contrary to what many believe, there is no clear answer to this question. HLA Hart, the first of the great modern legal philosophers, believed that the standards judges apply are supplied by lawmakers, such as the legislature. The rules emanating from the lawmakers may not fit all the situations that judges consider, in which case, judges use their discretion to fill in the gaps in the law. Most people intuitively agree with this analysis.

But philosophers like Ronald Dworkin challenged Hart. Dworkin discussed a famous New York case called *Riggs v Palmer*. A person killed his grandfather and as it so happened, was entitled to inherit his grandfather's property after his death. The court disallowed the inheritance on the principle that a person should not benefit from his wrongs. Dworkin argued that the principles in play did not look like the rules described by Hart. There was no statute prohibiting people from enjoying their own wrongs. But the judges certainly thought they were applying binding legal standards. But where did these legal standards come from, if these were not established in any statute or precedent? This is not a question to be considered as a nice puzzle on rainy evenings but has important implications for our lives. Judges fine people and send them to jail. We better have a handle on the standards they purport to apply.

India's everyday unicorns

From a baker's kitchen in Lucknow to a workshop in Trilokpuri, the country's young are turning hunger into invention, risk into resolve and weaving possibility from scarcity. In short, they are showing that progress can be handmade, local, and profoundly transformative



Imagine this: in Delhi's Trilokpuri neighbourhood, 22-year-old Nikhil, a graduate from Netaji Subhas University of Technology, runs a growing 3D printing venture that serves customers in the medical and aerospace sectors, earning Rs 1.5–2 lakh monthly and employing his father, who left a tiring export job. More than a thousand kilometres away, in a bustling Mumbai suburb, another 22-year-old sits at her laptop, sending out her fiftieth job application of the month, each one met with silence. In Lucknow, a 26-year-old pores over notes late into the night, preparing for her fourth attempt at the civil services exam, her dream, but also her only perceived path to a stable future.

All three are equally educated, equally ambitious, and equally part of the world's youngest country. The difference lies not in their potential, but in the opportunities they are encouraged, or enabled, to create.

On India's 79th Independence Day, Prime Minister Narendra Modi's address urged the nation's youth to step up as contributors, builders, and drivers of growth. Evidently, the nation's progress depends not just on those seeking jobs, but also on those who take the initiative to work hard, be productive, and create opportunities for themselves and others. The time has come to challenge the old narrative of waiting for security and stability; in today's world, driven by AI, enterprise, problem-solving, and meaningful work have become essential.

Every year on World Entrepreneurs Day (August 21), we celebrate trailblazers and industry leaders who redefine what it means to build a new-age startup. Yet, too often, the word entrepreneur is confined to the glitzy world of venture-backed startups. Rarely do we look beyond these polished spaces and into bustling classrooms, narrow bylanes or small-town mandis, where a quieter but equally transformative wave of entrepreneurship is taking root. If you listen closely, you can hear the creative swirl, whether in a homebaker's little kitchen, on a digital artist's tablet or in the animated conversation between two friends setting up a local tailoring unit.

This isn't just a hustle for employment, but a movement towards creation, fueled by the dreams of the world's youngest workforce and their hunger to transform India.

No safety nets

India, in fact, stands at a crucial juncture. Our demographic dividend has positioned us as a global force, with two of every three citizens being under the age of 35. This translates into over a million young Indians stepping into the job market every month. Yet, traditional avenues of employment struggle to keep pace with this surge of talent. For most of us, the word "job" conjures images of security, stability, and a clear path to personal progress. But the reality is stark: only about 10% of India's workforce enjoys the stability of a formal, salaried job. For the remaining 90%, work is neither secure nor predictable. It is often precarious, poorly paid, and lacking the safety nets needed to turn hard work into lasting prosperity.

Even within the formal sector, underemployment and skill mismatches persist, leaving many educated young people searching for opportunities that can truly use their potential. As economist Amit Basole noted, "our growth story has not translated into a jobs story." In fact, recent analysis found that young people make up 83% of India's unemployed, and the share of educated youth among the jobless has risen strikingly. In short, millions of capable young Indians are ending up in irregular, unstable work or are being sidelined altogether.

This sharp gap underlines a national urgency; India simply cannot keep routing every new graduate or labourer into existing jobs. If nothing changes, millions more will end up either underemployed or trapped in low-productivity informal work.

The title of "job-seeker" is increasingly disconnected from our times. Faced with these daunting challenges and a rapidly shifting economy, young India is beginning to ask a far more radical question: If the job doesn't exist, why not create it?

Needed: A mindset shift

Who counts as an entrepreneur today? It could be the street-food vendor who expands her reach through mobile delivery, or the YouTuber bringing his regional language to a global audience. Across the country, people are proving that "value creation" is not some distant corporate ideal, but it can happen wherever someone sees a need and steps in to meet it. Such thinking begins with a mindset shift. India must learn to celebrate and nurture job creators, not just job seekers. This shift has to start early, in our schools and across our society, so that we do not continue pushing millions of young people into years of preparing for exams with a less than one per cent success rate. We must embrace the democratisation of entrepreneurship, a broader, more inclusive definition that goes beyond Bengaluru's unicorns or Silicon Valley–style tech startups to recognise the vast and dynamic world of grassroots enterprise that already powers livelihoods for millions.

For instance, there is a "home-baking revolution" that bubbled in India after lockdown hobbies spawned thousands of "micro-bakeries" that run from kitchen tables. Likewise, India's rich artisan economy, on which around 200 million people rely on, is a hidden engine of entrepreneurship. When these craftspeople and small-scale producers blend tradition with commerce, running businesses out of home or village workshops, they innovate a new way for impact.

Yet despite this creative spirit, India's youth have been conditioned to play it safe. Research reveals a worrying contradiction: while approximately 81% of young Indians believe they have the skills to launch a business, only 20% actually intend to take the plunge, held back by risk aversion and a deep fear of failure. To achieve this mindset shift, India needs systemic reforms and investments that nurture entrepreneurship as a viable path.

To build, not just to seek

The story of India's economic future will not be penned solely by policymakers or corporate boardrooms but will be forged by the bold and the determined who dare to build from scratch. It is time we stop measuring success by how many jobs were secured and start measuring it by how many jobs were created. True progress is when a young person can say with pride, "I created a job," for themselves or others.

However, this potential faces a real challenge. India's economy is supported by over six crore micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs), but roughly 90 per cent of these are self-employed units that largely remain small and struggle with productivity and growth. Many have existed for years without scaling or formalising, held back by limited access to capital, technology, and skills. Addressing this issue requires targeted policies and ecosystem support to help these grassroots enterprises not only start but also expand and sustain their impact.

This mindset is not merely an ideal; it is a necessary response to India's complex realities. By cultivating this spirit, expanding access to capital rooted in local markets, providing mentorship and practical training, and crafting policies that truly support innovators, we can unleash a generation of creators.

Just imagine the ripple effect of new livelihoods emerging in every village, town, and city, fueling waves of growth and prosperity embedded in respect for India's unique fabric. By sharing these stories, we do more than grow the economy; we ignite a new culture that will define the future for generations to come.

VENKATESH RAGHAVENDRA MEKIN MAHESHWARI & PRAGYA RAJ SINGH

Venkatesh Raghavendra is a global social entrepreneur working on issues such as safe water, youth entrepreneurship and other areas of social impact. Mekin Maheshwari is the CEO and Founder of Udhyam Learning Foundation, a youth entrepreneurship-focused non-profit. Pragya Raj Singh is a social entrepreneur working on issues such as safe water and entrepreneurship.

> Too often, the word entrepreneur is confined to the glitzy world of venture-backed startups. Rarely do we look beyond these polished spaces and into narrow bylanes or small-town mandis, where an equally transformative wave of entrepreneurship is taking root.

> **The title of 'job-seeker' is increasingly disconnected from our times. Faced with daunting challenges and a rapidly shifting economy, young India is beginning to ask a far more radical question: If the job doesn't exist, why not create it?**

A FEW PRIORITIES STAND OUT:

Entrepreneurial education and mindset

We cannot expect entrepreneurship to suddenly flourish in early adulthood if young people have never been exposed to problem-solving or creative risk-taking in their formative years. Schools and colleges should lay the foundations of entrepreneurial skills and mindsets just as they teach math or history, as a respected discipline. This could be particularly significant in Tier-2 and Tier-3 towns, where young people often face the greatest job constraints and are left with no option but to migrate to cities, even though they possess unique insights into their local communities' challenges and opportunities.

Accessible micro-capital, rooted locally

For young founders, the challenge is rarely ideas; it is finance. While schemes like PM Mudra Yojana have opened doors, access remains uneven, particularly in rural and informal sectors. A promising step could be rural incubation hubs that pair micro-capital with mentorship anchored in local economies such as agro-processing, renewable energy, or crafts. These hubs should move beyond just business plans and equip youth with financial literacy, marketing know-how, and other resilience skills to navigate early setbacks. They should also create pathways for internships and apprenticeships with local businesses, giving young people practical experience and stronger roots in their communities.

Digital and AI literacy

In today's world, even a local grocery store owner must navigate online markets to stay competitive. From digital payments to online storefronts and social media marketing, technology has become inseparable from enterprise. Building widespread digital and AI literacy can demystify these tools and equip young entrepreneurs with essential skills to thrive. Making digital education freely and easily accessible will not only boost productivity but also make entrepreneurship a more viable and attractive path for India's tech-savvy youth.

Cultural risk-aversion and the lure of "safe" jobs

In India, the pull of safe jobs often outweighs the allure of entrepreneurship. From families to entire communities, young people are repeatedly told to choose stability over uncertainty. This cultural risk aversion, stemming from an understandable path dependency, is quietly holding the country back from fully capitalising on its demographic dividend.

To break through this barrier, public narratives must shift. More movies, popular culture, and social media content that shine a light on job creators, especially those whose ventures positively impact many lives, can normalise entrepreneurship as a respected aspiration. When society applauds enterprise and views failure as a stepping stone rather than as a setback, young people will feel empowered to pursue ventures that truly generate jobs.

Arundhati Roy unpacks a fierce maternal legacy where tenderness is scarring, rebellion liberating, and darkness is looked upon as a gift, writes R Krishnakumar

Love, but with teeth

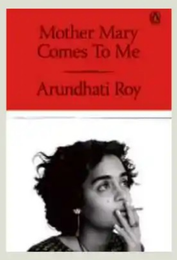
In the memoir, Roy (pictured left) tries to rationalise her many worlds and deal with a constant, debilitating fear, "a cold, furry moth on a frightened heart." (Pic courtesy: Penguin)

John Berger, the British writer and cultural thinker, wrote to Arundhati Roy in response to her essays on the Narmada dams that her fiction and non-fiction walked her around the world like her two legs. Roy mentions this note in *Mother Mary Comes To Me*, her first memoir, and says Berger was one of the few people who didn't see her works under the two groupings as in conflict with each other.

At another point in the book, she talks about the absurdity of being identified as a 'writer-activist'. Is the writer, by definition, not engaged with people and what impacts their lives? Is that not among the determinants of her pursuit, as a teller of stories? So why the hyphenated apportioning of identity, "something like sofa-bed"?

Roy has had to respond to this perception of duality in her public, post-Booker life — the idea of two disparate halves melding uneasily into a whole, into writings that are searingly honest but are also marked for their cross-genre infusions.

The memoir is not where she seeks to defend, or even explain, her considerations as a writer, or her choices as a political being. Instead, she turns to her mother — the titular Mary, the mercurial Mrs Roy — and in trying to understand her rancour and rebellion, pieces together her own compelling origin story. Mrs Roy, an iconic educator whose petition in the Supreme Court led to a landmark judgement upholding equal inheritance rights for Christian women in Kerala, died in 2022. This is where the daughter revisits the mother for what she was and what she has left behind.



MOTHER MARY COMES TO ME
Arundhati Roy
Penguin, pp 376, Rs 899

Dark, underlying humour

The memoir has at its centre a child watching her legendary mother from her ignored, inconsequential corner.

For her daughter, Mrs Roy was both shelter and storm. *Mother Mary* builds on this fraught dynamic in a largely linear, interspersed arrangement of events that trace the journeys of the two women, with strong social commentary forming a busy, evolving backdrop. Roy writes with sublime power. Her narratives draw on people in their everyday wars for homes and fair lives, and in a nation in transition, for identity and the freedom to be. The author writes in a language that is *outside* her. She must hunt it down like prey, "Disembowel it, eat it".

This is a language that also shapes a dark, underlying humour and lends the narrator a transcendent rootedness, across timelines and topographies — by the Meenachil in Ayemenem, cycling to work on Delhi's streets, standing with a lost, wronged people in strife-torn Kashmir.

> Mother Mary is a hard book to write, Roy notes initially, but she must. She must make sense of a love denied, of the thorns her mother set down for her, "like little floaters in my bloodstream". The recall, however, seems to come from a place of relative peace, excised from the bitterness and complexities of their relationship.

What is this disquiet Roy senses in safe places, making them dangerous, prodding her to break away and run? Why would she drop work on a widely anticipated second novel to walk with the Naxalites in the forests of Bastar? How could she hold on in the face of relentless hostility — she the wild child with calloused feet and runaway at 16, the dodger of intrusive men in faraway cities, the outsider who risks sedition charges, criminal contempt, and a day in prison to speak for those who don't have many on their side, the *gaddar* the Hindu Right loves to hate? *Mother Mary* is where the author tries to rationalise her many worlds and a constant, debilitating fear, "a cold, furry moth on a frightened heart". This is where she sees why things are the way they are; why she is – "*...because I'm my mother's daughter. Because I could not do otherwise.*"

Poignant and reflective

The author has a problem with inherited houses: *they* own the people who live in them. The intensity of familial bonds unsettles her; the structural compulsions of love make her step back and reassess.

Mother Mary has portions where Roy writes like a fan in the stands, about her mother's militant courage and radical kindness.

This tenderness, this resilience for rejection and refusal to stop loving, despite having suffered years of humiliation and cold rage, may have come from an entrenched emotional distance — the adoring daughter, never *enough* for her superstar mother. The author writes that she left her mother because staying would have made loving her impossible. However, this is Roy Senior's story too. *Mother Mary* is a hard book to write, Roy notes initially, but she must. She must make sense of a love denied, of the thorns her mother set down for her, "like little floaters in my bloodstream". The recall, however, seems to come from a place of relative peace, excised from the bitterness and complexities of their relationship.

Poignant and reflective, *Mother Mary* is a rare personal account that blends well into the political. Early in the book, Roy narrates a moment of loss in relation to the subject of her deep grief; it's a response that surprises her. The question she asks is revelatory: What makes people revere their persecutors, even grateful for their oppression?

The light Mrs Roy gave her students eluded her daughter and son, LKC. For them to shine, the children had to "absorb her darkness". But this is a darkness the author is grateful for — "*It turned out to be a route to freedom, too.*"

WORLD IN VERSE

A language of care, no words needed

Srividya Sivakumar writes about poems that capture the primal bond between mother and child

Some months hold more significance than others, don't they? When you think of August, the first thought that comes to mind is August 15. This day is one we cannot forget, and should not. August is also a month to honour breastfeeding. World Breastfeeding Week is celebrated every year in the first week of the month.

Launched in 1992, this is one of the largest global health campaigns, supported by WHO and UNICEF. The goal is simple: to raise awareness of the benefits of breastfeeding. I was fascinated to learn about the myth of the goddess Hera, whose milk was said to make Hercules invincible. This milk spilt across the sky to create...yes, the Milky Way. Across the world, sacred mythology about breastfeeding is common. If we have Yashodha and Krishna, the Egyptians have Isis nursing her son, Horus, one of the most recognisable images in Egyptian art. The Celts believed that there existed supernatural women who could grant wisdom and heal wounds with their milk. Cultures deeply connected to the earth and nature, such as Native Americans and African tribes, also revere this act, associating breastmilk with fertile soil and rivers, and bestowing it with magical powers as well.

You might wonder why such a campaign is necessary today, and here's why. During the 19th century, infant formulas were popular, and by the early 20th century, some cultures even frowned upon breastfeeding. The push for breastfeeding began around the 1960s, driven, to a large extent, by members of the medical profession.

Statuette of Isis nursing Horus, Ptolemaic period, 332-30 BC. (PIC COURTESY: MET MUSEUM)

In 'Only She Who Has Breastfed' by Vera Pavlova (translated by Steven Seymour), the poet says, "*Only she who has breast-fed/ knows how beautiful the ear is. Only they who have been breast-fed/know the beauty of the clavicle.*" This immediately brings to mind an intimate setting, a quiet morning perhaps, a moment of communion between the mother and infant. "While breastfeeding may not seem the right choice for every parent, it is the best choice for every baby," says Amy Spangler. Perhaps, but let's also understand that in some cases, some women may choose not to breastfeed. In such situations, to momshame is an act of cowardice and gross insensitivity. In 'The Republic of Motherhood,' Liz Berry speaks of crossing, "*the border into the Republic of Motherhood/and found it a queendom, a wild queendom.*"

I recall a new mother, whose own mother would wake up every time the baby was breastfed: she would mix a nutritious drink for her daughter, the lactating mother. The act perhaps came naturally, but consider this. Aren't some of us guilty of not thinking this way? We ask after the baby, but not always after the mother. In 'Breast Milk,' Katie Hartsock speaks of, among other things, her great-grandmother who nursed 10 children, "*from one breast — the other side never made, maybe,/a country doctor thought,/because of her childhood polio.*" The poem ends with this remark, "*In a short story by Maupassant,/a train is stopped far from anywhere/and one car holds two strangers,/a very hungry man and a nursemaid,/painfully engorged. And that's all/you really need to know,/ except, it occurs to me, she/must have been hungry too.*"

It seems like the poet is speaking of her great-grandmother, too, in this instance.

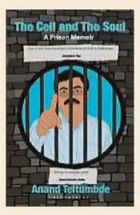
I also read the joyous poem, 'I Pump Milk Like a Boss,' by Kendra DeColo. The poem is filled with fantastic sentences. "*Do men lactate is a popular Google search, and I wonder what would happen if they could, our presidents/lifting their offspring to their breasts in the deep pockets/of night, listening to the dribble of milk/sipped from the pulpit of their bodies.*"

And who better than the emperor of terse sentences, William Carlos Williams, to leave us wondering with his poem, For the Poem Paterson [1. Detail]: "*Her milk don't seem to . ./She's always hungry but . ./She seems to gain all right,/ I don't know.*"

World in Verse *is a monthly column on the best of new (and old) poetry. The writer is a poet, teacher, voice actor and speaker. She has published three collections of poetry. Send your thoughts to her at bookofpoetry@gmail.com*

BOOKRACK

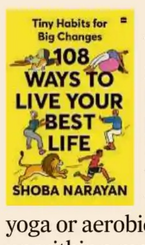
ZORAVER AND THE LOST GODS
Abeer Kapoor and Ujan Dutta (Illustrator)
Bloomsbury, pp 256, Rs 699
From getting chased in the alleys of London to navigating the jungles of old Magadh, from secret meetings with Dadabhai Naoroji to traversing the sands of Harappa, Zoraver encounters revolutionaries, con artists and spies.



THE CELL AND THE SOUL
Anand Teltumbde
Bloomsbury, pp 256, Rs 699
Noted social activist Anand Teltumbde entered the Taloja Central Prison as accused number 10 in the Bhima Koregaon case until he was released on bail. This is a raw, unvarnished testament of a man incarcerated for his convictions.

AND YET YOU SHINE
Supriya Kelkar
Scholastic, pp 48, Rs 699
The story of one of the world's most famous diamonds—stolen from South Asia during colonisation and now among the crown jewels in London—is a call to action for readers to decolonise and hold their heads high.

WONDER TALES FOR A WARMING PLANET
Rajat Chaudhuri
Niyogi, pp 112, Rs 295
This is a collection of short stories about ordinary young children trying to make sense of a planet under extraordinary threat.



108 WAYS TO LIVE YOUR BEST LIFE
Shoba Narayan
HarperCollins, pp 272, Rs 399
So if you're someone who avoids going to the gym, signs up for yoga or aerobics classes and gives up within a month, has a Sudoku app on your phone but never actually opens it, this is the book for you.

Blending myth and memory in Nagaland

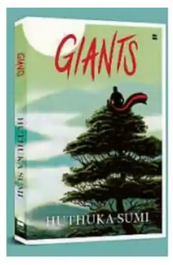
Huthuka Sumi's debut tenderly weaves life, culture and fantasy into a luminous tale of survival and belonging, writes Sandeep Menon

'People without stories disappear,' goes one of the more poignant lines from Huthuka Sumi's *Giants*. Stories have the power to raise and raze civilisations, to dehumanise and to humanise, for they are the essence of being. To lose them is to lose oneself. Tales carry culture and community into the future.

With this in mind, the author, in a slim 200-odd page novel, weaves the life, culture and mythology of the Sumi tribe of Nagaland into a fictional world. The result is an accessible, luminous narrative that introduces (and in some cases reintroduces) a marginalised society to the mainstream. It leaves one wondering how many more such books lie untold in this cultural melting pot of a state, home to over 15 tribes and myriad tongues so distinct that they rely on English or Nagamese, a pidgin Assamese, as their shared voice.

The story follows Kato, a mute on the cusp of manhood, whose life takes a tumble into the magical when he is chosen as the storyteller by a mythological giant, Timi-Ala, Kene. The nocturnal adventures of the duo, where they traverse the region and scale the tallest of the mystical trees, give the book its soul and their wanderings across forests and mystical trees form the book's beating heart. Through their conversations, the reader glimpses the tribe's older ways of living in harmony with nature — a fragile connection now dangling by a thread.

People from various tribes gather for traditional ceremonies during the annual Hornbill festival in Nagaland.



GIANTS
Huthuka Sumi
Harper, pp 252, Rs 299

Kato embodies the familiar fantasy archetype of a young man shunned by society, insecure and struggling to find his place in the world. Kato's life is defined by the loving relationship with his family, particularly his mother and grandmother. It gives him resilience, propped up by love and by a desire to prove himself to the world. Kato goes through the proverbial hero's journey, from a reluctant chosen one, through the death of innocence, and finally comes of age as a competent and confident man.

Set in the mid-20th century, the village holds a quiet whimsy, thanks to its isolated location in a picturesque world, its self-sustaining nature of life and governance, and on account of being a place relatively untouched by modernity. The missionary work from the West was already in the region, and though aware of the outside world (with references to Kohima and Dimapur), the people are content to spend their entire lives according to their old customs and traditions in the region. Superstition lingers—where even a photograph is viewed as a soul-snatching terror.

When the outside world finally pierces this fragile isolation, it does so with violence. Real events, such as the Great War, are woven seamlessly with the fantastic until myth and history comfortably overlap.

Two characters stay with the reader: Kato's mother and grandmother. The interaction between the two women and Kato is endearing. The women are strong presences, a reflection, perhaps, of the tribe's cultural fabric. The writing brings a certain lifelike quality to their feelings; the pain, happiness, and helplessness all have a certain resonance.

The book also explores the topics of colonialism, the fading of the indigenous ways of life, the carnage and collateral damage of war, and climate change. It directs one's attention to the history of the region in itself, caught in the crossfire of a world undergoing seismic changes when empires collide. It pulls back the veil of magic to show a shared world, one where humans coexist with beings beyond themselves.

Reflective and pensive, the book lingers over traditions, food habits, and daily life in a region too often overlooked. For outsiders, it could serve as the gentlest of introductions.

What keeps one motivated to turn the pages, above all else, is the simple but descriptive writing and its vivid imagery. The folktale elements give the book a certain magic shimmer. Sumi, in his debut, has achieved a rare feat: a seamless blending of old and new, myth and memory, tradition and reality.

READ OF THE WEEK

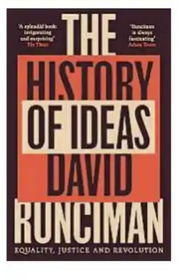
In this bold new follow-up to *Confronting Leviathan*, David Runciman unmasks modern politics and reveals the great thinkers behind it.

What can Samuel Butler teach us about the absurdity of how we choose to organise our societies? How did Frederick Douglass not only expose the horrors of slavery but also champion a vision of life beyond such power divides? Why should we tolerate snobbery, betrayal and hypocrisy, as Judith Shklar suggested? And what does Friedrich Nietzsche predict for the human condition?

In 12 short chapters, the acclaimed political theorist distils 300 years of thinking about equality, justice and revolution from the greatest minds of history and, with his signature erudition, explores what the very human fears behind these definitive works show about how we understand our world today.

What these great philosophers were really asking, Runciman reveals, were the same questions that tie us in knots even now: life, death, pain, values, freedom and everything in between. From Rousseau to Rawls, from fascism to feminism, and from pleasure to anarchy, this is a mind-bending tour through the history of ideas.

David Runciman is Professor of Politics at Cambridge University and the author of many books about politics.



From macho to muse

In one of India's most conservative categories, jewellery ads are giving masculinity a makeover, writes Viren Naidu

There is a moment in Malayalam superstar Mohanlal's recent jewellery ad when he fixes a side-eye at a young model — a familiar trope immortalised by Indian cinema. However, it isn't the cliché we were expecting. He isn't looking at her at all — but at the necklace she's about to wear, his eyes beaming with jealousy, compelling him to steal it for himself.

Moments later, in the quiet confines of his vanity van, he slips on the necklace as he twirls elegantly to singer Sangeetha Sreekanth's soulful voice. The director later catches him mid-performance as Mohanlal's mischievous smile closes the ad — not with embarrassment, but with delight. What lingers is the visual of cinema's iconic star, famously associated with brawny characters, not breaking skulls, but swaying with effortless grace. This ad for Vinsmera Jewels, released only a month ago, has since garnered 2.6 million views on YouTube.

Prakash Varma, founder-partner at Nirvana Films, who also directed the ad, has more to add about how the gamble paid off. "Since Mohanlal was signed on as the brand ambassador, it felt logical to get him to enjoy the jewellery himself, as opposed to endorsing it the conventional way. We wanted to explore how feminine and masculine fluidity could co-exist, drawing from our own culture," he says. Varma was unsure if Mohanlal would bite. "I started to narrate the concept to him, and even before I could finish, he was completing my sentences. His childlike enthusiasm gave me wings." It was also Mohanlal who suggested using Swathi Thirunal's composition, later recreated by music composer Bijibal. On shoot day, Varma says, the actor was "immersed in the moment. No extra takes."

Most jewellery ads in India feature women at the centre, while men often play the role of gift-bearing husbands or fathers. What makes the ad disruptive is that the superstar himself chose to don the jewellery, thus breaking deeply rooted advertising codes in one of India's most conservative product categories — and driving home the message that ornamentation need not be bound by one gender.

Mohanlal isn't championing this movement alone. Who would have known that Fahadh Faasil — best known for playing a murderous son in *Joji* and an abusive husband in *Kumbalangi Nights* — would front a campaign for Kavitha Gold & Diamonds? In the ad, his screen mother gifts him a nose ring. At first, he assumes it's for her. However, when she reveals it is for him, he wears the ornament gleefully, without any fuss. The mother teases, "Why should girls have all the fun?"

Conceptualised and scripted by Shabna Mohammed and directed by Martin Prakkat, the ad challenges the binary narrative that drives most jewellery campaigns. Shabna, who grew up listening to jingles such as, "*If you are a girl, you need gold*," says she wanted to write something that challenged this conditioning. "As a child, I began to quietly internalise it until I began to question — and later unlearn — it. That's the lure of advertising: it can shape identity before we even realise it," she says. When Faasil came aboard, Shabna says Prakkat saw an opportunity — why not flip the script and have the mother gift her son a piece of jewellery instead? "With a lesser-known actor, the concept may not have worked. But Faasil's endorsement of the idea legitimised it. When a celebrity of his stature makes a statement, audiences take note," she says.

For Prasanna Kumar, executive vice president and creative domain head of the Insights Division at Kantar, a marketing data and analytics company, what makes both campaigns powerful is the different kinds of "license" they extend to men. Kumar says, "Mohanlal's campaign is about self-permission — a cultural icon of stoic masculinity reclaiming ornamentation on his own terms. Faasil's is about external permission — his reflective tone, paired with the presence of his mother, suggests emotional expression is actively encouraged." Together, these perspectives, he says, illuminate two critical dimensions of men's growing relationship with jewellery — the inner desire for expression and the outer validation that enables it.

Kumar points out how Kerala is setting the stage for such experiments. "Regional campaigns draw on local traditions, and Kerala's cinematic legacy — with its comfort in gender fluidity — allows such portrayals to feel authentic. In contrast, pan-India campaigns tend to default to generic tropes," he argues. Ad veteran Raj Kamble, founder and CCO at Famous Innovations, explains why that may be the case: "Global campaigns crack ideas in London or New York offices, then adapt them across various countries, thus avoiding regional specificity."

However, he is quick to point out that Indian campaigns, embedded in local ethos, resonate with audiences on a far more personal wavelength. Kamble has long worked at this intersection. Earlier, his agency created the Mia by Tanishq campaign for International Men's Day that highlighted: "We make jewellery for women. But our jewellery doesn't know that." The copy cheekily pointed out that necklaces don't care about hairy chests and nose pins brighten up faces, bearded or not. "Why should jewellery be gendered? If a brand's messaging reflects progress, it can push society forward. After all, advertising can do more than just sell brands."

Yet, the scarcity of leading men of cinema in such campaigns is glaring. It is this very scarcity that solidifies their impact. The Kerala Police even parodied Mohanlal's ad to promote emergency services — signalling its acceptance.

Still, a recent report by Kantar titled *The Indian Masculinity Maze*, which examines how urban Indian men are perceived, portrayed, and positioned in modern advertising, presents sharp contradictions. The report reveals that while men want to look presentable, many still equate "trying too hard" with a loss of masculinity. A quarter of respondents strongly agree that men who focus on appearance aren't "manly," yet 28 per cent believe those who don't look good lose respect. Kumar, co-author of the report, says, "These findings highlight cultural blind spots that both brands and society must reckon with."

In most jewellery ads, weddings and patriarchal gifting continue to be the norm. "Many brands play it safe, steering clear of any cultural commentary to avert potential backlash," says Shabna.

The presence of Mohanlal and Faasil may not erase decades of conditioning — but it does challenge the rigid binaries that have long dominated jewellery advertising. "It is rare for an advertisement to start a conversation of any kind. But when it does, it helps us gauge the pulse of what the people are ready to accept or discard," says Varma. And in this case, two of Malayalam cinema's biggest stars prove that masculinity can not only look good — it can glitter in gold!

TRAVEL

Join Bharath Joshi in diving into the hidden world of Vietnam's war-torn past through the Cu Chi Tunnels, an underground network of survival, ingenuity, and resilience

To the other side of the war through Vietnam's tunnels

The Independence Palace in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam.

When in Vietnam, one cannot forget the Vietnam War.

"No. For us, it's the American War," points out Andrew Uy Nguyen, a tour guide when he is not being a toastmaster or a stand-up comedian. He even frowns upon movies like the Robin Williams-starrer *Good Morning, Vietnam* and Stanley Kubrick's *Full Metal Jacket,* for he says they peddle only one view.

Local Vietnamese like Andrew are the legatees of a ravaging war whose relics thrive in the Southeast Asian country. An hour-and-a-half from Ho Chi Minh City, the economic capital also known as Saigon, lies the most engrossing war relic, the Cu Chi Tunnels. The sound of machine guns firing sets up the ambience for this elaborate network of subterranean battlefields. They say that the war did not stop here; it simply went underground.

The war (1954-1975) was between communist North Vietnam and non-communist South Vietnam, which was supported by the US. The communists also had allies and soldiers fighting inside South Vietnam. An estimated three million Vietnamese were killed, two million injured, and 3,00,000 went missing. Over 58,000 US military personnel died and 3,00,000 were wounded.

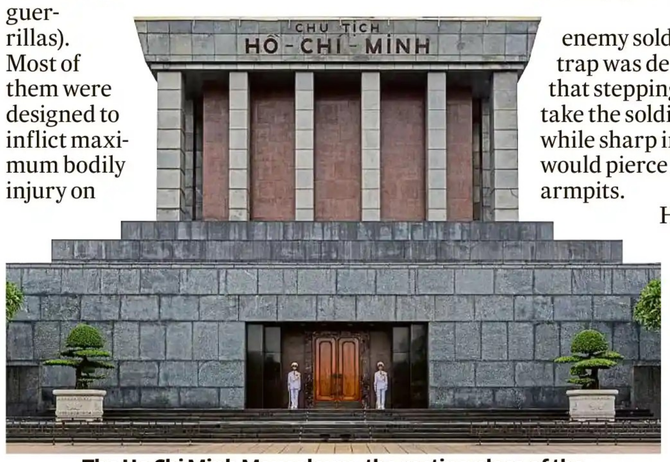
Originally built by Vietnamese guerrillas during the French Indochina War in the late 1940s, the Cu Chi Tunnels were developed further into a sprawling 200-km underground network against the invading American forces.

Specifically, the Ben Duoc tunnels at Cu Chi are swarming with stories of Vietnamese war ingenuity and their determination to survive in hostile jungle conditions against a powerful enemy.

On demonstration here are booby traps laid by the Viet Cong (the Communist guerrillas). Most of them were designed to inflict maximum bodily injury on enemy soldiers. One trap was designed such that stepping on it would take the soldier down, while sharp iron rods would pierce into his armpits.

The Cu Chi Tunnels were used by Viet Cong soldiers as hiding spots during combat.

A 1968 photograph from the Vietnam War at the War Remnants Museum in Ho Chi Minh City. PHOTO BY AUTHOR



The Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum, the resting place of the Vietnamese revolutionary leader Ho Chi Minh.

How did the tunnel-dwelling Vietnamese find materials to lay the traps? They foraged for metal from American bombs and ordnance, it is said.

There's a similar story about rubber sandals the guerrillas wore during tunnel warfare. The rubber came from the tires of abandoned enemy vehicles. Tourists are shown how a sandal could be worn backwards or forwards to hoodwink the enemy with misleading footprints.

During the war, there were 'tunnel rats'. No, not the rodents. They were US soldiers who volunteered to enter the dangerous tunnels to fight Viet Cong. These rats had to face the claustrophobia of the tunnels, besides the booby traps and venomous snakes. There are recorded stories of how the 'tunnel rats' who survived went on to live a traumatised life.

While there is nothing that comes close to being a tunnel-dwelling guerrilla or a tunnel-infiltrating rat, tourists can experience a semblance of that life under the supervision of uniformed Vietnamese personnel.

It is definitely dark, obviously claustrophobic, and requires crawling. For those few minutes, the tunnel will make you its prisoner, letting you move only slowly, until a faint light afar becomes bright enough to escape from the unseen shackles.

However, these tunnels have been made tourist-friendly. "Vietnamese are small-framed, unlike Americans or Indians. So, the tunnels have been made a tad bigger," tourists are told.

Once outside the tunnel, the ambient firing continues. By the way, this is real firing taking place at a shooting range for tourists who get to handle weapons like M16, AK47, K63 and so on.

The tunnel experience culminates in a serving of *khoai mi* (steamed cassava), which was the staple food for the tunnel inhabitants.

Back in Ho Chi Minh City, the rest of the war story, particularly the famous 'Fall of Saigon', unfolds at the Independence Palace. From the outside, the Palace may look like one big, bland government building. Inside, however, lie the presidential privileges. It was, after all, the presidential suite of the erstwhile South Vietnam. The multi-storeyed palace has its own war bunker.

The Cabinet room has been arranged the way it was on April 30, 1975. On that day, from inside the room, South Vietnam President Duong Van Minh saw communist tanks and infantry breaching the palace gates. South Vietnam surrendered, ending the devastating war. It was the Fall of Saigon.

The cost of this war was huge, captured in jars of human foetuses deformed following exposure to dioxin known as Agent Orange used by the US military in Vietnam. The foetuses are on display at the War Remnants Museum.

The War Remnants Museum is popular for its curation depicting other gut-wrenching stories like the My Lai Massacre.

In fact, the museum's highlight is Requiem, an exhibition of 204 photographs taken by 133 photographers from 11 nationalities. Many of them died or went missing during the war. This includes the story of legendary photojournalist Robert Capa's death.

The museum also has on display numerous military equipment that were used during the war, including unexploded ordnance.

It is natural for visitors to come out of the museum unsettled and seething after what they see.

"I feel lucky and proud," Andrew, the tour guide, says. "Lucky because I was born after the war. So, I didn't have to pick up a gun. I feel proud because my forefathers went through a lot for me. It gives me confidence," he says, tearing up.

(The author was in Vietnam at the invitation of VietJet Air.)

WAR TOURISM

War tourism is booming. The Indian Army is opening up some of the country's most iconic battlefields under the Bharat Rannbhoomi Darshan programme. Indians looking for experiential war tourism will find Vietnam revealing. In 2024, over half a million Indians visited Vietnam. According to estimates, Indian visitors have increased 2.6 times in the last two years, helped by major cities now having direct flights to Ho Chi Minh City, Hanoi and Da Nang.

A view of the 131-year-old Saigon Central Post Office. PHOTO BY AUTHOR

Ho Chi Minh city at night.

Sunset on the Mekong River.

The War Remnants Museum.

Artfully served dishes in Copenhagen.

Nourish & flourish the Copenhagen way

Baked treats.

Blending tradition with innovation and ethics, New Nordic cuisine is reshaping global gastronomy, writes Sonia Nazareth

The New Nordic cuisine movement, with its innovative approach to traditional ingredients and focus on ethical production, inspired a gastronomic shift. It also put Copenhagen, the capital of Denmark, firmly on the map as a formidable culinary capital.

The movement was guided by ideas from a manifesto prepared by Scandinavian chefs, including Claus Meyers and Rene Redzepi of the culinary landmark Noma. Noma, often ranked at the very top of the world's best restaurant lists and a flagship of this philosophy, strived to re-create Scandinavia on a plate. Artful meals featuring foraged herbs and ingredients like Faroe Island shellfish, Greenland shrimp, beach dandelions, hay-smoked quail eggs, reindeer moss and ramsons (wild garlic) began to prevail. Ingredients, both seasonal and simple, fresh and sustainable, defined the meals that resulted. The accompanying service was characterised by poetic precision.

New Nordic food, based on the kitchen manifesto, began to flourish, especially in Copenhagen. Defined by a micro-seasonal, hyper-local approach, a dedication to foraging, conscious cultivation and an innovative style of cooking, a litany of acclaimed restaurants popped up, many distinguished with Michelin stars. In Copenhagen, the movement has continued to gain momentum, and now there is a sizeable number of cafés offering the fare of Nordic climes at more accessible prices.

The practice of urban farming and sourcing ingredients from one's backyard or rooftop continues to thrive. Bygaard, an urban farm specialising in organic gourmet mushrooms, is a case in point. In climate-controlled containers, kilos of speciality mushrooms are grown for Europe's top restaurants and sold directly to consumers all year round. Øens Have, a sprawling urban farm in the city, is replete with everything from vegetables to flowers to bees. Amid this oasis of green, a restaurant sits offering a true farm-to-table dining experience.

Alongside this New Nordic approach, the traditional Danish table continues to thrive as a hearty affair. A beloved feature at any conventional repast is *frikadeller*, or fried minced-meat balls, served with boiled potatoes and red cabbage. Another is *sild* (herring smoked, cured, pickled or fried). *Smorrebrod*, the Danish open sandwich that has now made its way around the world, is equally ubiquitous in its appeal. Upon a modest square of rye bread (which stays fresh longer than white) are heaped an overflow of delicious toppings. Mild cheese with peppers, smoked eel with watercress, pickled herring with capers — begin this seemingly endless list. It's clear that the warm, gregarious Danes have appetites as hearty. Torvehallerne, one of the several gourmet food markets in Copenhagen, is peppered with small independent businesses that offer all permutations of delectables from oysters to cream puffs to crepes. It is here that I sample *Stjerneskud*, or Shooting Star. On a bed of buttered toast are piled fried fish, a mound of shrimp, sliced cucumber, caviar, garnished with dill and a twist of lemon, all slathered in sour cream dressing.

Peer into any baker's window, even on the wintriest day, and a wonderland of baked confections reassures the eye. What we know as the "Danish pastry" is called *wienerbrod* here, and it translates literally to Viennese bread. Legend has it that a Danish baker moved to Austria in the 19th century, where he honed the art of creating this flaky, butter-laden confection, giving it its name. Another bakery staple is the *kanelsnegle*, or cinnamon snail, a sweet, buttery scroll laced with cinnamon.

To accompany all that eating, Danes enjoy a drink. To experience a native high, sample a shot of *aquavit*, a clear spirit produced from potatoes or grain and spiced with caraway seed. While a battalion of outstanding microbreweries abounds, it is infinitely worth popping into the Carlsberg brewery. Not least because the museum attached to the brewery is a lively, interactive gem that takes you through the history of the Jacobsen family. Note the timeless designs on the labels of the Carlsberg bottles. Pay heed also to the tremendous art collection that brewer Carl Jacobsen built up during his lifetime, a smattering of which can be seen here. Avoid sampling such a great quantity of beer at the tastings in these cellars that you neglect a look at the horse stables. These draught horses, once used to deliver beer around Copenhagen, formed an indispensable part of the business. Danes have a penchant for bold flavours. Aromatic cheese. Pickled vegetables. Herring. Liquorice. I buy a bag of *salmiakki*, a small black salted candy. Its sweet-salty taste profile stands apart from liquorice sampled elsewhere. With the discovery of yet another distinctive flavour in Copenhagen, I'm prompted to appreciate the preservation of the unique.

In finding more strawberries and asparagus on summer menus, or when I hear about foods being prepared with a greater emphasis on the preservation of their natural flavours, my heart gladdens. A little more thought in the kitchen, the curiosity to discover ingredients that lie around us, and a desire to produce food of outstanding quality can add nourishment to our lives.

Local and seasonal ingredients that have been tastefully put together.
PHOTOS BY AUTHOR

Variations of Smorrebrod, or the open sandwich.

Aquavit is a distilled spirit made from grain or potatoes and flavoured primarily with caraway seeds.

WELLNESS

Taming the silent storm

From brain chemistry to breakfast choices, multiple approaches help people dismantle depression's quiet grip, writes Dr Ume Hani

Depression has quietly become one of the most pressing health challenges of the 21st century. Often described as a "silent storm" — unseen, unheard, but powerful enough to shake a person's world, it is far more than simply feeling sad.

This clinical condition can disrupt daily life, strain relationships, and affect work performance. According to the World Health Organisation (WHO), more than 300 million people worldwide experience depression. Yet many suffer in silence, held back by stigma, misconceptions, or a lack of awareness about effective treatments.

Fortunately, understanding of depression has deepened in recent decades. Today, there are multiple evidence-based ways to manage it. Treatment usually combines pharmacological and non-pharmacological strategies, tailored to each person's needs.

Restoring chemical balance

For moderate to severe depression, or when therapy alone does not provide relief, medication is often the first step. These drugs work by balancing brain chemicals such as serotonin, norepinephrine, and dopamine, which play a vital role in regulating mood. Common antidepressants include Fluoxetine, Sertraline, Escitalopram, Mirtazapine, and Bupropion. While medications can be highly effective, they are most successful when paired with other forms of support that address thought patterns, lifestyle, and social connections.

The human connection

Depression often pushes people into withdrawal, but staying connected can speed recovery.

- **Family involvement:** Educating loved ones about the illness helps them provide encouragement and support.
- **Support groups:** Talking to others with similar experiences can reduce feelings of isolation and foster hope.
- **Workplace & community engagement:** Gradually resuming professional or social activities can restore a sense of purpose and normalcy.

Advanced non-drug therapies

Some cases of depression require more specialised approaches:

Electroconvulsive Therapy (ECT): Modern ECT is safe, effective, and reserved for severe or treatment-resistant cases, especially when rapid improvement is needed.

Repetitive Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation (rTMS): A non-invasive technique using magnetic fields to stimulate brain regions linked to mood regulation.

Light therapy: Often used for seasonal affective disorder, light therapy mimics natural sunlight to improve mood during darker months.

Breaking the stigma

One of the greatest barriers to recovery is stigma. Many people still see depression as a weakness rather than a medical condition, delaying treatment out of fear of judgement. But depression is not a character flaw; it is an illness, much like diabetes or hypertension. Seeking help is not failure; it is an act of courage. Early intervention not only shortens recovery time but also prevents complications such as substance abuse, self-harm, or suicide.

The road ahead

Managing depression is rarely a quick fix; it's a journey. Recovery often involves medication for some, therapy for others, and lifestyle changes for all.

Social connections, healthy routines, and professional support together create the foundation for long-term resilience. Modern medicine offers real hope. But equally important is building a culture where mental health is openly discussed, and seeking help is seen as normal and necessary. Taking the first step by reaching out to a professional can be the start of a brighter tomorrow.

(The author is a consultant psychiatrist.)

HEALING BEYOND PILLS

Psychotherapy remains the cornerstone of non-drug treatment. It helps patients understand their thoughts, challenge negative beliefs, and build resilience.

- **Cognitive Behavioural Therapy (CBT):** Identifies and replaces harmful thought patterns, like "I'm worthless," with constructive, realistic perspectives. Research shows CBT can be as effective as medication for many people with mild to moderate depression.
- **Interpersonal Therapy (IPT):** Focuses on improving communication, resolving conflicts, and strengthening social relationships, since depression often deepens with isolation and strained ties.
- **Behavioural activation:** Encourages individuals to re-engage in enjoyable or meaningful activities, breaking the cycle of inactivity and low mood.

Therapy does more than reduce symptoms, it equips people with strategies to face life's future challenges.

LIFESTYLE CHANGES

Small, consistent changes in daily routines can have profound effects on mood and mental well-being:

- **Exercise:** Physical activity increases endorphins and serotonin, natural mood enhancers. Even a brisk 30-minute walk, five days a week, can significantly improve symptoms.
- **Balanced diet:** The brain functions best with the right fuel. Foods rich in omega-3 fatty acids (such as fish and walnuts), whole grains, leafy greens, and colourful fruits support mental health. Limiting processed foods and sugar is equally important.
- **Sleep hygiene:** Poor sleep and depression feed into each other. Maintaining a regular sleep schedule, limiting screen time before bed, and creating a calming bedtime routine can restore healthy sleep patterns.
- **Stress management:** Practices like yoga, meditation, and mindfulness breathing can calm the nervous system and build emotional resilience.
- **Avoiding alcohol & drugs:** While some turn to alcohol for temporary relief, it can worsen mood and disrupt brain chemistry. Avoiding such substances is crucial for recovery.

Digital recovery

RASHIKKHA RA IYER

As the team leader of the addictions unit within a high-security correctional facility in the United Kingdom, I have long been driven to innovate and refine my therapeutic practice. My growing fascination with harnessing the potential of artificial intelligence and cutting-edge technology has led me to explore opportunities that could complement my full-time role on an affiliate basis.

Fatefully, I discovered an organisation pioneering intensive online rehabilitation services — accessible to individuals in need — and was humbled to be offered the chance to collaborate with them.

As I embark on this new journey, I am struck by the vast scope of online rehabilitation programmes, their increasing prevalence, and the factors that underpin their success. The opportunity to explore the intersection of technology and addiction treatment has piqued my curiosity, and I am eager to delve deeper into the nuances of this evolving field.

The Covid-19 pandemic precipitated a seismic shift in the healthcare landscape, accelerating the adoption of online services. Nowhere is this more apparent than in addiction treatment, where virtual rehabilitation centres have become a vital complement to traditional therapy. In India, for example, SuVitas Virtual Rehabilitation Centre and Hope Trust have emerged as leaders in the online rehab space, combining the expertise of seasoned therapists and counsellors to deliver tailored, evidence-based interventions.

Structurally, online rehabilitation mirrors its in-person counterpart. Upon enrolment, patients undergo a comprehensive, multidimensional assessment capturing the intricacies of their medical and psychosocial history. This thorough evaluation forms the foundation of a personalised care plan, developed collaboratively by the clinician and patient, to address the individual's unique needs and goals.

Treatment is delivered through video or telephone consultations, drawing on evidence-based methods such as motivational interviewing — a powerful technique for resolving the ambivalence often experienced by those in recovery. In addition to one-on-one therapy, online rehabs frequently offer virtual mutual aid or peer support groups, tapping into the insight of practitioners with lived experience. Throughout the treatment process, patients' needs are regularly reassessed to monitor progress and ensure that the care plan remains effective.

One of the most significant advantages of online rehabilitation is its accessibility. It serves individuals in remote or underserved areas, as well as those with demanding schedules. Virtual consultations remove the need for long travel times and reduce waiting periods. Anonymity is another compelling feature. While India has made notable progress in reducing the stigma surrounding mental health and addiction, fear of social judgement still deters many from seeking help. Online rehab allows people to engage in treatment discreetly, easing their path to recovery. This anonymity, combined with reduced overhead costs, also contributes to the affordability of virtual care.

Yet, online rehabilitation is not without its challenges. Technical difficulties — such as poor internet connectivity or low-quality video — can disrupt sessions, potentially diminishing the therapeutic impact. The limits of digital interaction may also deprive patients of the human contact and community atmosphere that in-person care offers, both of which can be important for recovery.

Furthermore, online programmes are not always suitable for individuals with severe addictions or complex mental health conditions who may require intensive medical supervision or hospitalisation. Access to reliable technology is another prerequisite, and for some, a significant barrier.

As the field continues to grow, it is crucial to address these limitations, ensuring that innovation in addiction treatment is matched by sensitivity to the needs and circumstances of those seeking help. Balancing technological progress with human connection will be key to the continued success of online rehabilitation.

(The author is a multidisciplinary professional who works in the UK.)

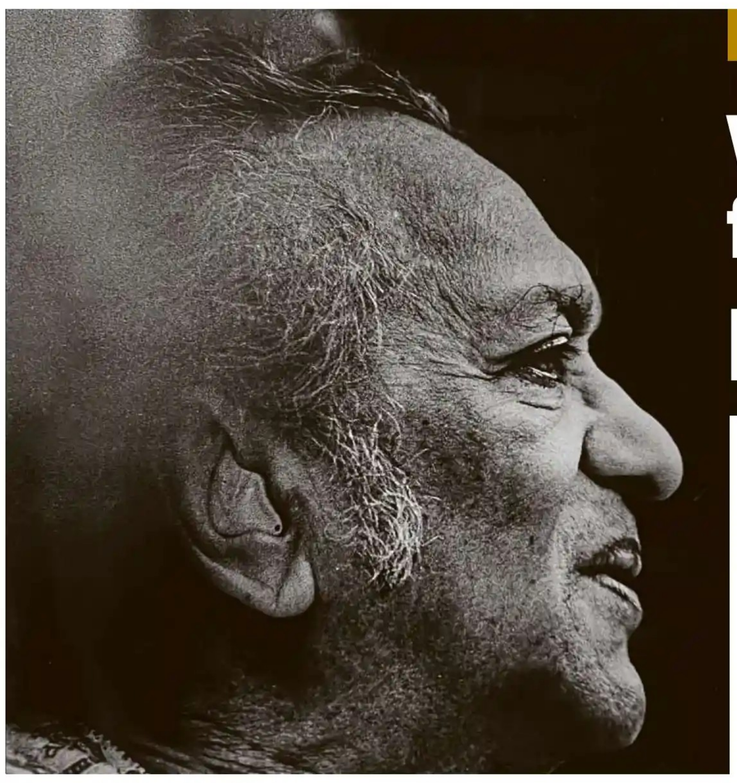
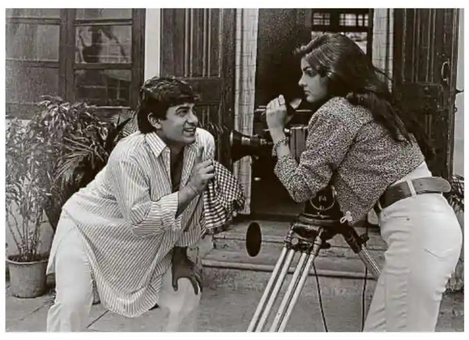


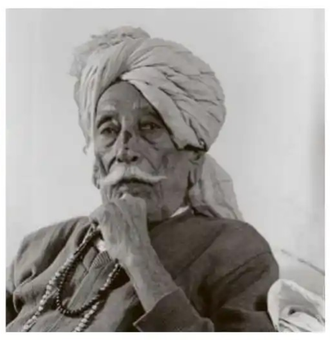
PHOTO FEATURE

Where every frame is a meditation

A few of the analogue photographs at the exhibition.

A new exhibition in Delhi pays a moving tribute to the pioneers and masters of photography whose vision and craft have shaped India's visual memory, discovers Neha Kirpal





In 2027, photography approaches its historic bicentennial milestone. To mark the occasion, Museo Camera has a new exhibition, which is an ode to photography's pioneers, practitioners and living masters whose images shaped India's visual memory. Touching Light: A Prelude to the Bicentennial of Photography (1827–2027), currently running in Gurugram, pays tribute to the practice of analogue photography. Curated by Aditya Arya, this is the first exhibition in India that traces the journey of analogue photography across more than 150 years, from the earliest archives to contemporary practice.

"Touching Light is an ode to the pioneers and contemporary masters of photography whose vision and craft have shaped India's visual history. This exhibition is both a celebration and a reminder of analogue photography's lasting beauty and significance as we approach 200 years of the medium," said Aditya Arya, Founding Director of Museo Camera.

Photography enthusiasts can delight in rare 19th-century treasures on view — Albumen prints from the 'People of India' series (1850s–1860s), Carte de Visite from Bourne & Shepherd Studio (1860s) and the 'Beauties of Lucknow' series attributed to Darogah Abbas Ali (1874). These archival treasures from Museo Camera/India Photo Archive are presented alongside analogue silver prints, chemigrams and diapositives by 28 contemporary Indian photographers.

Pradeep Chandra's photography journey began with an excitement to create a print at his home darkroom with an 8-frame Kodak Sure Shot. While still in school, his photo of Waheeda Rehman made its way to *Filmfare*. Over the years, his career evolved through various newspapers. For over 50 years, Avinash Pasricha has passionately documented India's performing artists, capturing the country's cultural scene in New Delhi. His work began in 1966 when new fast films allowed him to shoot stage performances by available light, a discovery that led to his lifelong quest for the "mood picture". "In the analogue era, each frame had a cost, was a meditation of scarcity. The limited frames taught me to wait and to truly 'see,'" recalled photojournalist Bandeep Singh.

After four years of hustling as a rookie, self-taught photographer Fawzan Husain got his first break at *Mid Day*, where he truly found his footing in documentary photography. This journey led to eight exhibitions and three books. Artist-turned-photographer Harbans Mody's grooming began at the College of Art, Delhi. After a career as an Art Director for JWT in Paris, photography became his passion. "I would capture images with my 'Magic Box,' waiting with 'palpable tension' for films to be processed," he said.

Internationally acclaimed photographer with over four decades of experience, Hardev Singh, began with a gifted Yashica camera. Featured among the top seven architectural photographers globally, his career flourished through a 35-year collaboration with a renowned luxury hotel group. "In this world of instant everything, I believe analogue photography is a gentle reminder of the beauty of slowness. It teaches you to wait, rewarding your patience with a sublime pleasure of delayed gratification and unanticipated surprise," said Akash Das.

Mala Mukherjee was barely 12 when her father bought her a Mamiya VI camera. Photography became a passion, and she started freelancing in 1986. Her photograph of the tied cricket test match in Chennai attained iconic status, and her photo of the NatWest Tower in flames got an award. Her work on the Jantar Mantars of India also got rave reviews. "Analogue photography's deliberate pace cultivates the vital ability to see the world with clarity. The tangible print was the photograph, imparting an 'enveloping softness' and an 'intangible' quality to images, teaching craft, visualisation and patience," said Mahesh Bhatt.

Neeraj Priyadarshi has spent 25 years capturing and telling stories of riots, rural distress, calamities and Bollywood's hidden world. His acclaimed analogue work is exhibited globally, including at the Kiyosato Museum in Japan. Parthiv Shah's journey in photography began with his father's Pentax cameras. "In those days, every frame mattered. The slow, deliberate process of shooting and the magical darkroom processing taught me to value each image," he said.

Serena Chopra's analogue journey began with a vintage trusty Olympus film camera. She returned to analogue photography two and a half decades ago, working with medium format Hasselblad, with 120 Roll film, black and white. "Every shot meant effort and risk, but the magic of analogue made it worthwhile," she exclaimed.

As a woman navigating a traditionally male-dominated field in her early work in fashion photography, Sumiko Nanda found strength in analogue's discipline, using it to articulate a unique visual language grounded in texture, contrast and emotion. Since 2019, Jayant Shaw has undertaken an experimental venture with his handmade wooden box camera. "The slowness of this unhurried technique is a difficult challenge. My project aims to make human portraits in today's fast world using this box camera," he explained.

The exhibition will run at Museo Camera, Gurugram, till September 29.

ESOTERICA *A monthly exploratory infographic for the always curious*

In mid-August, the African Union, which represents Africa's 55 countries, urged all governments and organisations to replace current world maps with one that more accurately displays Africa's size. What's going on?

THE SHAPES AND RELATIVE SIZES OF LAND MASSES IN CURRENT MAPS

IS SOMETHING WRONG WITH THE WORLD MAP?

AN EQUAL EARTH MAP SHOWING THE ACTUAL RELATIVE SIZES OF LAND MASSES

1 All two-dimensional maps are innately inaccurate.

Nearly all of the maps we commonly find in atlases, school textbooks, and government documents today are variants of the world map the 16th Century geographer and map maker Gerardus Mercator created for marine navigation. Even Google Maps used to show only a Mercator variant until 2018, when it incorporated a 3D Globe View too. The Mercator World Map and, by extension, all its variants, are accurate about distances. However, they are wrong in another fundamental way.

The relative sizes of land masses are distorted – areas near the poles, like North America and Greenland, are rather enlarged and southern land masses like Africa and South America are heavily shrunken.

- Greenland looks as big as Africa, but in reality, it is only a fourteenth of Africa's size. In fact, it is smaller than the Democratic Republic of Congo.
- Antarctica is severely distorted as it tends to be just cropped off in commonly used maps.
- Even India appears to be much smaller than it actually is.
- North America seems larger than Africa. But Africa is actually 1.23 times the size of North America. USA, Europe, China and India can be fitted into Africa, with room to spare.

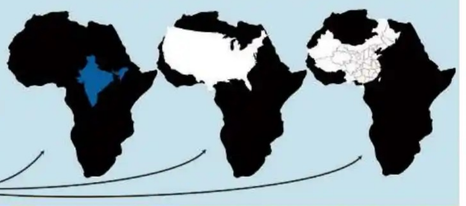
2 There's no way to create a perfectly accurate map.

The Earth is a sphere, and its land masses are best represented using a model globe. Actually, it's impossible to perfectly flatten a 3D sphere onto a 2D plane without some form of distortion.

When one tries to flatten a sphere into a rectangular shape as most maps do, at least one of the following parameters gets distorted – shape, size or distance.

So, map making involves trade-offs and there's no perfect flat map that accurately represents all aspects of the globe. While the Mercator map and its variants have accurate distances but distorted sizes of landmasses, the Gall-Peters map projection is a kind of equal-area map that represents accurate sizes but distorted shapes.

RELATIVE SIZE: AFRICA VS INDIA, USA & CHINA



TEXT & DESIGN: SIDDHARTH MOHANTY | Key Sources: equal-earth.com, thetruesize.com

A church that got moved

POT-POURRI

The wooden Kiruna Church in Sweden. AFP

How do you move one of Sweden's most beloved wooden churches down the road? With a little engineering, a lot of prayer — and some Eurovision for good luck.

The Kiruna Church — called Kiruna Kyrka in Swedish — was moved this week along a 5-kilometre route east as part of the town's relocation. It's happening because the world's largest underground iron-ore mine is threatening to swallow the town.

This week, thousands of visitors have descended on Kiruna, Sweden's northernmost town, at 200 kilometres above the Arctic Circle. It's home to roughly 23,000 people, including members of the Sami Indigenous people, spread over nearly 19,500 square kilometres. Lena Tjärnberg, the church's vicar, kicked off the move with a blessing after the church was lifted on beams to be wheeled across town. Thousands of spectators lined the streets, bundled up in layers for strong winds and temperatures under 10 degrees Celsius, as the church inched along for hours at a glacial pace.

In 2001, the Swedish people voted the wooden church the "best building of all time, built before 1950" in a poll connected to the Ministry of Culture. Built on a hill so worshippers could overlook Kiruna, the Swedish Lutheran church was designed to emulate the Sami style as a gift from LKAB, the state-owned mining company.

The Kiruna mine itself dates back to 1910, and the church was completed in 1912. Its neo-Gothic exterior is considered the town's most distinctive building, and tourists regularly travelled there before it was closed a year ago to prepare for the relocation. It's set to reopen in the new location at the end of 2026. This week's move turned into a two-day, highly choreographed spectacle, featuring an appearance by Swedish King Carl XVI Gustaf. Musical performances included a set from KAJ, Sweden's 2025 Eurovision entry. **AP**

ROOTING FOR NATURE

Magic lamps illuminating the wild

Fireflies have fired human imagination for long. The mating rituals of fireflies and their dazzling display of synchronous flashing are the stuff of legend, narrates Ramya Coushik

Fireflies flit around a wooden bird's nest.

When I was yearning for a little piece of earth to belong to, I sought out the cloud forests of the Western Ghats, the land of my ancestors. But the Shangri-La of my dreams remained elusive for long, and we settled for an arid patch instead, in the plains of Mysuru district.

As one season turned into another, realisation dawned ever so slowly that Navilu Kaadu, our wild savanna, didn't just nurture 10 tamarind trees, but several wildlings, no less captivating than the ones in tropical forests. One of them even brings the mystic of the rainforest to Navilu Kaadu. Tiny airborne sequins embellish the veil of twilight draped gently on our open grassland — fireflies. A few of them drift beyond our porch at twilight like flecks of glowing ember, on the cusp of the monsoon season.

Fireflies are soft-bodied, mostly nocturnal, bioluminescent beetles under the family Lampyridae, within Coleoptera, an order comprised of winged beetles. Bioluminescent beings emit light to draw mates, warn off predators, or hunt.

Fireflies have fired human imagination for as long as our race has walked the planet. Scientists propound that the larvae of fireflies originally emitted light and continue to do so to avoid being eaten, alerting predators to the toxins in them, a defense strategy called aposematism.

A shining firefly rests on stones.

Somewhere along their evolutionary trajectory, adult fireflies figured that lighting up their backsides could potentially be a rewarding dating hack and started to beam light from their bums to draw mates. Further along, diabolical adult female fireflies of Photuris, a genus not endowed with toxins, hit upon a sinister plan. The enchantresses began mimicking the flashing pattern of the females of the fireflies belonging to the genus Photinus to draw mates. Photuris females love-bait Photinus males with the borrowed flash pattern, and prey on them, to make their victim's toxins their own, in turn making themselves unpalatable to predators.

How do fireflies conjure light? These beetles have specialised light-producing organs called photophores in their abdomens, where luciferin, a light-emitting compound, reacts with an enzyme called luciferase. Oxygen drawn through the beetle's abdominal breathing tube, magnesium ions and Adenosine triphosphate (ATP) fuel the reaction to produce cold light — a type of light with no heat.

All species of firefly larvae glow, but only a few of them light up as adults. Some firefly species that are diurnal or active during the day rely on good old pheromones or chemical signals to draw mates.

The mating rituals of fireflies and their dazzling display of synchronous flashing are the stuff of legend. The males take wing and illuminate their derrieres to bewitch female fireflies gazing up at them from the ground. If a female is taken in by a male's flashing moxie, she reciprocates with a flash of her own. The gent then floats down to meet the lady and the pair mate.

Fireflies need moist habitats to complete their lifecycles, and the larvae need plentiful prey; hence their reliance on monsoons, and their abundance in the tropical rainforests of the Western Ghats. Mated females lay eggs just beneath damp soil, or on emergent vegetation. The eggs hatch in about four weeks. Much of a firefly's lifespan is spent in the larval stage. Come rain, the larvae emerge and then pupate for around two weeks. Adult fireflies live for barely a couple of weeks.

Fireflies thrive in undisturbed terrestrial and riverine landscapes, and their presence indicates a balanced ecosystem. Disturbances to the topsoil and unchecked pesticide and herbicide use sully firefly habitats. Artificial light disrupts firefly photic signalling patterns that are crucial for defence against predators and to attract mates. Without concerted efforts to secure firefly habitats and curb light pollution, these magic lamps of the wild may cease to illuminate our natural landscapes altogether.

Rooting For Nature *is a monthly column on an off-kilter urban family's trysts with nature on a natural farm. The author runs Green Goobé, a sustainable venture committed to a greener, cleaner planet. Reach her at bluejaydiaries@gmail.com or @ramyacoushik on Instagram.*

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